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FBIS-NES-90-090 *9 May 1990*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iran, Iraq Attend Gulf Environmental Session

LD0905073490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The fourth session of the regional organization for protecting the Persian Gulf environment opened in Kuwait yesterday. According to an IRNA report, the practical plan on environmental control and assessment, clearing the region's waters of pollution, and equipment sunk as a result of the Iran-Iraq war will be discussed. This session will last three days, and the participants include representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Criticizes U.S. on Not Supporting Summit

JN0805172090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has said the United States is trying to hinder the emergency Arab summit that the PLO has requested and proposed Baghdad host. Brother Yasir 'Arafat said the Americans do not want the summit to be held, and that they do not want peace, but our capitulation. Brother Yasir 'Arafat criticized Arab states that have failed to announce official approval of the summit. He added some prefer the summit be held after the Gorbachev-Bush meeting expected at the end of this month. Brother Yasir 'Arafat explained this is not in the interest of the Arab nation. He said the summit should be held expeditiously so the Arabs can declare their position before the Bush-Gorbachev meeting. Brother president Yasir 'Arafat was addressing a conference for solidarity with Iraq in which 2,000 representatives from parties, unions, and organizations in many Arab countries took part.

'Arafat Accuses U.S. of Shadowing His Plane

LD0805113690 Algiers APS in English 1027 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 May (APS)—President of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat affirmed yesterday here that the plane he uses for his trips was followed these last two months by American aircrafts.

He also accused Washington of trying to hinder the holding of the Arab summit.

"American shadows did not stop to follow my plane these last two months," Yasir 'Arafat declared in front of a congress of solidarity with Iraq in which took part 2,000 representatives of parties, trade unions and asociations of different Arab countries. [passage omitted]

PLO Committee Completes Paper for Arab Summit

TA0805163790 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 May 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has said that, at the end of its meeting in Baghdad yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee completed the preparation of a Palestinian working paper to be presented to the extraordinary Arab summit expected to be conducted in the Iraqi capital.

It was said in Baghdad the broad outlines of this paper include ways of confronting, at all levels, the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories. The paper includes the Palestinian perception of formulating a unified Arab stance, clearing the Arab climate, and emerging from the differences and divisions with a strong position to confront the threats and changes in the world. The paper also includes ways of supporting the intifadah on the Arab level. The Palestinian paper notes Israel's continued use of the means of suppression and rejection of the logic of peace.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian source said president Yasir 'Arafat is insisting on holding the proposed Arab summit in Baghdad during the current month, despite the objection of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He added 'Arafat believes this summit should be conducted before the Bush-Gorbachev summit is convened at the end of this month, and that the Arab leaders should overlook trivial differences and close ranks to confront the imminent dangers.

Al-Surani, Sha'th Urge End to Arab Disputes

PM0905102390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 4 May 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Surani and Sha'th Tell 'UKAZ: Clearing Arab Atmosphere Essential for Backing Nation's Causes"]

(Text) Cairo, 'UKAZ Bureau—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, have emphasized to 'UKAZ that clearing the atmosphere among Arabs is a fundamental requirement at this crucial stage of the nation's history in order to achieve victory over the enemies and resolve all the complex problems.

Al-Surani said the Arab states have made long strides toward resolving marginal differences, and that this must be exploited to draw up a new Arab strategy designed to place the Arabs on the world map according to a new outlook.

He added everyone welcomes the clearing of the atmosphere between Syria and the PLO for the sake of enhancing the efforts made to arrive at a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

He pointed out efforts were being exerted to normalize relations between Syria and the PLO, expressing hope these efforts would produce positive results.

The PLO Executive Committee member emphasized that resolving differences and normalizing relations between Syria and the PLO is bound to correct the strategic defect in Arab relations.

He also said producing positive results via efforts made to clear the Arab atmosphere would effectively prepare the climate for new developments—which in turn would reflect on the Arab and international scenes, enabling the Arabs to acquire a strong negotiating capability with great influence over current changes.

Al-Surani pointed out the United States should take faster and more positive steps regarding backing peace efforts in the region.

He emphasized any Palestinian-Israeli talks or negotiations, especially the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, would be conducted according to the foundations proposed by the PLO—first and foremost the requirement that the delegation be named by the PLO—that the dialogue not be confined to the election issue, and the dialogue be a preparatory step toward convening the international peace conference—completely legitimate requirements. All this is to be done with the participation of the PLO, the Security Council permanent member states, and the parties concerned with peace in the region.

Al-Surani pointed out that to achieve a solution to the Palestinian issue—the fundamental issue for all Arabs—normal relations must be restored between all the Arab states which still have disputes among themselves.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said no one doubted the clearing of the Arab atmosphere, the results achieved during the recent period, the Egyptian-Syrian and the Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement, and Egypt's return to the Arab League are all things that have pleased every Arab citizen, because they reflect positively on the nation's causes.

He added that differing views are a natural thing, but permanent disputes are repudiated by all, and developments in the region and in the world require we close ranks and clear the atmosphere. He pointed out what is required at the Arab level is to place high political interests above all considerations, with the realization world political developments require some cohesion and united stances and aims, that is, away from disputes.

Habash Calls for Intifadah To Increase 'Losses'

JN0805191390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Palestinian intifadah entering its 30th month, Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, addressed Palestinian masses in Palestine. He called on them to hold tightly to unity and to escalate and deepen the intifadah until it achieves freedom and independence. Habash urged the intifadah masses to inflict further economic, moral, and human losses on the criminal occupation army and to counter effectively and comprehensively the intensive Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Dr. Habash renewed the call for expediting the next ordinary Palestine National Council [PNC] session so it can make a critical assessment of all PLO policies since the PNC's 19th session and bolster and deepen national unity by finding new common ground and formulating new political policies and militant programs.

Dr. Habash denounced U.S. denial of Palestinian rights, its support for intensive Jewish immigration to Palestine, and its threats against Iraq. He also denounced the resolutions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives considering Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital. Habash called on Arab regimes to determine their positions toward the U.S. Administration in light of the latter's position on the Palestinian question. Habash called on the coming Arab summit to discuss how to eliminate the dangers facing the Palestinian people.

OPEC Affairs

New Saudi Representative to Board of Governors

LD0805104990 Vienna OPECNA in English 1110 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Riyadh, 8 May 90 (OPECNA)—The Saudi Arabian Government has announced the appointment of Suleiman Jasir al-Herbish as its representative on the OPEC board of governors.

He replaces Abdul Aziz al-Turki who took over as secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) on 1 March this year.

Al-Herbish has been assistant deputy minister of petroleum and mineral resources since 1983 and a member of the directing board of various important companies, including the Arab maritime petroleum transport company, a joint Saudi-Kuwaiti venture. He is also chairman of the board of the Arabian drilling company, set up jointly by Petromin and Sedco Forex of France.

He received his education in Egypt and the United States, taking a master's degree in economics from the University of San Antonio, Texas [University of Texas at San Antonio]. He joined the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in 1962, rose to become economic adviser (1966-71) and senior economic adviser (1974-83).

He is married and has four children.

Algeria

Bendjedid Addresses Islamic Future Conference

LD0805124190 Algiers APS in English 1033 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Algiers, 8 May (APS)—"The Algerian people are distinguished by a rare political courage which makes him not to hesitate to correct at any moment the errors and deviations noted in their march," President Chadli Bendjedid said in a meeting with Muslim thinkers taking part here in a conference on the Islamic future.

"The ongoing democratic change in Algeria, President Chadli Bendjedid said, have been decided after a deep consideration and assessment of our situation and have not been imposed on us by some conjunctural phenomena as some think, especially the enemies of the Arab Islamic world. We belong to the generation of November which has fought colonialism and it will never be acceptable for the children of the National Liberation Army and the National Liberation Front who liberated the country to exercise any pressure on the people," the head of state said.

"We have now reached a state of evolution which enables the people to exercise in an organized frame all freedoms beginning by the free choice of representatives who suit them and answer their will," President Chadli said underlining the belonging of Africa to Arab Muslim civilization. "I shall work in order to honor my commitments towards the people concerning the setting up of channels and structures which favor the true exercise of democracy," the head of state reaffirmed, rejecting "the vision of those who want to make of themselves tutors of our people in the name of history or anything else.

"Neither the Algerian people nor the system will accept that power will be seized from the summit and by the exploitation of economic and social difficulties of the country," President Chadli said adding that such an action will never succeed in spite of the support of foreign intelligence services which are hostile to Algeria and the Arab-Muslim world.

On this occasion, the participants thanked President Chadli Bendjedid for giving them this opportunity to discuss in Algeria the challenges the Islamic world is facing.

FLN Leader Mehri Comments on Current Issues

LD0905082790

[Editorial report] Algiers Television Service in Arabic at 1940 GMT on 8 May carries a 120-minute "Meet the Press" program, attended by FLN [National Liberation Front] Secretary General Abdelhamid Meri and representatives of the newspapers AL MASA, HORIZONS, EL MOUDJAHID and LIBRE ALGERIE. There is also an independent journalist. The presenter points out that the organ of the Islamic Salvation Front, AL MOUNQID, turned down the invitation to attend the program. Some members of the FLN Political Bureau and the government are also present as Mr. Mehri's guests. Foreign Minister Ghazali is clearly visible in the front row.

The first question is about disagreements within the FLN. Mr. Mehri acknowledges the existence of such disagreements, stressing that they are a healthy reflection of the democratic debate within the party.

Another journalist asks the FLN secretary general about the relationship between the party, the government, and the other institutions, such as the National People's Assembly. Mr. Mehri says being an FLN activist or member was never a precondition for promotion to the governing bodies and related institutions. He also defends the government's program as being in line with the spirit of the national charter. He rejects the accusation that Algeria's problems are due to the FLN, stating that there are a number of objective reasons behind the economic and social problems.

Mr. Mehri then replies to a question on the meaning of socialism as perceived by the FLN, and says it means national independence, man's prosperity and the non-exploitation of man by man. He adds that successive governments failed to change the methods of economic organization and to reform the political system because some feared that changing the methods would lead to a change in the objectives. That was a mistake, he admits.

The FLN secretary general reiterates his party's opposition to the use of mosques for political activities and electoral campaigning, as this might lead to excesses. He stresses that the FLN's program is based on Islam, social justice, Arabism and progressive policies. He also emphasizes the need to rejuvenate the front.

On the question of the popular languages such as Amazighi [Berber], Mr. Mehri maintains that they are a national heritage which must be preserved. He adds that this does not preclude Arabic being the language of all the Algerians.

In reply to a question on the return of the old guard to the ranks of the FLN, Mr. Mehri says that the party refutes the claims that these former "militants" are to be reused due to lack of fresh blood.

As far as the return of former president Ahmed Ben Bella is concerned, Mr. Mehri says that all Algerians will undoubtedly be happy to see all the figures of the national liberation war back in their homeland, stressing that everybody, including Ben Bella and Boudiaf, are welcome providing that they play the democratic game. He says that politically there are no obstacles to Ben Bella's return.

On the $26 billion affair raised by former Prime Minister Brahimi, who accused unnamed officials of receiving bribes from foreign companies, the FLN secretary general reminds viewers that the government has already asked Mr. Brahimi to be more specific and to present evidence, otherwise his allegations can only be interpreted as speculations and demagoguery aimed at

undermining Algeria's credibility. He adds that the country is not a country of thieves, as claimed by some.

Asked whether he is a civil servant employed and paid by the state or paid by the party and the contributions of its members, Mr. Mehri replies that he is still a civil servant on the state's payroll, as there was until now no separation between the party and the state. He also indicates that the FLN's budget is estimated at about 90 billion centimes, all of course provided by the state. He adds that there are about 13,000 people employed by the FLN and its mass organizations, not including the party activists.

With regard to the 10 May march called for by several parties as a response to the marches staged by the Islamic Salvation Front and the FLN some two weeks ago, Mr. Mehri says that he welcomes all marches which defend the democratic process. He adds however that although the FLN was invited to attend the meeting preparing that march, the party representative was told that no agreement had been reached on his presence.

Mr. Mehri refused to answer a question on the investigation into cases of torture dating back to 5 October 1988 and the death of former Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, saying that these questions had already been put to the president of the Republic.

Mr. Mehri is also asked about the decision of the Council of Ministers last week to give control of the two main dailies EL CHAAB and EL MOUDJAHID to the FLN. He says that these two papers rightfully belong to the FLN and the people as they are a historical legacy. He refutes the accusation that the FLN is trying to take control of the media.

The FLN secretary general strongly defends the rights of women in Algeria, saying that Islam itself guaranteed those rights.

At the end of the program, as is customary, the guest is invited to address a final message to the viewers. Mr. Mehri begins by condemning the desecration of martyrs' graves, an act which he describes as a plot aimed at sowing discord between Algerians. He therefore calls on Algerians to be vigilant and to be wary of the provocation. He also calls on all parties to opt for cooperation and consultations in order to enable the newly elected municipal and provincial people's assemblies to assume their responsibilities immediately after the proclamation of the results, because it is the country's welfare at stake.

'Genocide' During Independence War Commemorated

LD0805123790 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Algiers, 8 May (APS)—Forty-five long years have already passed and the atrocious aftermath of the genocide of a certain May 8, 1945 is more than even alive in the memory of thousands of Algerians in Setif, Guelma, Kherata (east of Algeria) and other places in the country, who commemorate today these tragic events which were marked by the sacrifice of 45,000 sons and daughters of Algerians.

Among the most painful memories which marked the long struggle of the Algerian People, May 8, 1945 is in fact part of those which marked the evolution of humanity. This was a collective slaughter which spared no one. Women, old persons and children were killed without warning.

The Algerians do not want to forget, they consider this as a genocide. They demand moral and material compensation.

In this context an international colloquy is being held in Kherata, one of the martyr towns, to shed light on this crime against humanity perpetrated by the French colonial army.

Wire Service Names Hamdi New General Director

LD0805105990 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Algiers, 8 May (APS)—The Algerian News Agency (APS) has a new general director. The handing over of office between the new general director, Mohamed Hamdi and the acting director, Ahcene Belkacem Djaballah took place Monday here in presence of a high official of the government, Salah Dembri, in presence of the heads of various departments (information, technical and administrative) of the agency.

On this occasion, Dembir paid homage to Djaballah who has been called for other functions and hoped success to the new general director. Mohamed Hamdi is an experienced journalist. He holds a degree in journalism. He started his career in 1964 at the APS. He assumed responsibilities within various newspaper and magazines such as the daily EL MOUDJAHID, the weekly ALGERIE ACTUALITE and the monthly EL DJEICH, mouthpiece of the National Liberation Army. It is worth recalling that he was also editorial director of REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, the mouthpiece of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party.

Egypt

Reportage on Saudi Prince 'Abdallah's Visit

Arrives 8 May

NC0805122890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a one-day official visit to Egypt, during which President Husni Mubarak will receive him. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi led those who received Prince 'Abdallah at the airport.

Meets With Mubarak

LD0805222390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt, received at the presidential palace in Heliopolis this evening His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. They then conducted a closed meeting.

During the fraternal meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the fraternal ties between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. They also discussed the issues of the Arab and Islamic nations and the best way to serve the interests of these two nations.

During the meeting President Husni Mubarak and the crown prince also reviewed the main international events and developments.

Mubarak Comments on Ties

NC0805204990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated Egypt and Saudi Arabia are bound by very close and strong ties. He said: During the short stay of Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, we discussed bilateral relations. The main points we also discussed were the Arab summit, ways of overcoming the present stage, and also ways to unite the Arabs.

Replying to a question on holding the extraordinary Arab summit and whether there are difficulties in this matter, President Mubarak said: There might be some difficulties. Anyway, we support the holding of the summit. We hope that the summit will be held, and that all the Arab brothers will attend so our appearance together will give a good impression to the world. He added: We hope there will be no Arab divisions during the summit meetings, because this would be dangerous for all of us. We hope God will grant us success, and that this stage will pass.

Replying to another question on his visit to Moscow and the issues he will discuss there concerning the Palestinian problem and Soviet Jewish emigration, President Mubarak said: We have dealt with the Soviet Union on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration right from the start through messages. We do not want to interfere in the Soviet Union's internal affairs, but want to ensure Soviet Jewish immigrants will not settle in the occupied Arab territories. This is the principle we are talking about. He stressed this will be one of the issues he will discuss in the Soviet Union.

President Mubarak made these statements to Saudi correspondents following the dinner banquet he hosted tonight in honor of the Saudi crown prince.

Attends Banquet

NC0905194790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a round of talks at the presidential office this evening. Afterwards, President Mubarak hosted a banquet in honor of the Saudi guest and his accompanying delegation. The following attended the banquet: Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production; Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications; and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Concludes Visit

NC0905100290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0936 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)—Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and National Guard commander, left Cairo for home at noon today, concluding a two-day visit during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi saw Prince 'Abdallah off at the airport.

'Abd-al-Majid, Kuwaiti Minister Discuss Issues

NC0805194590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs [title as heard]. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed current developments in the Arab world in light of the ongoing efforts to hold an Arab summit, the international issues of mutual interest, and bilateral relations.

Kuwaiti Official Departs 8 May

NC0805205190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs [title as received], left Cairo this afternoon after visiting for one day. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Envoy Given Message for 'Arafat

NC0805113990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1021 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Sa'id Kamal, Palestine's ambassador to Cairo. Afterwards, Kamal said Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid had

given him an important message for Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the latest developments in the Arab world. Kamal said that he will convey the message today.

'Abd-al-Majid, Al-Baz Leave for Iraq 9 May

NC0905103690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Iraq today. They will convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on Arab developments.

Al-Husayni Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC0805140790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has stated it is no surprise to be so warmly welcomed by President Husni Mubarak. He said President Mubarak occupies a prominent position in the higher Arab command and has assumed comprehensive responsiblity for all Arab causes, particularly the issue of Lebanon, which I believe is the core of the current Arab causes.

Speaking after his meeting with President Mubarak today, al-Husayni said the Lebanese crisis is a great challenge for the Arab world, which has a duty to preserve this great cultural example of Islamic-Christian coexistence which we are all eager to protect.

He said: We had found that the president is deeply interested in the need to rescue Lebanon, and we had sensed readiness on his part to help Lebanon continue its salvation march, in which President Mubarak played a substantial role during the Casablanca summit on Lebanon.

In conclusion, al-Husayni thanked President Mubarak for himself and on behalf of his colleagues for his willingness to continue his support for the national accord march in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Hasan Shash, Egypt's ambassador to Lebanon, and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, Lebanese ambassador in Cairo.

144 Arrested During Parade To Be Released

JN0905074990 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 May 90 p 1

[By Kamal Jabr]

[Text] Manfalut—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has agreed to release 144 detainees who were arrested for participating in a parade known as the bearers parade [masirat al-mahmal] in Manfalut. The prosecutor's office had decided they should be imprisoned. However, the decision to release the detainees followed a pledge by notable families that what took place on the morning of 'Id al-Fitr would not be repeated.

This was announced by Asyut Governor Hasan al-Alfi during a popular conference in Manfalut.

Sources on 'Sound Preparations' for Summit

NC0805152390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 May (MENA)—MENA has learned from high-level diplomatic sources that during the contacts it is currently holding in several Arab capitals, Egypt is emphasizing its eagerness to ensure the proposed emergency Arab summit attain specific results and decisions that could back up Arab rights and fateful causes at this critical stage. Egypt believes this can be attained only through sound preparations for this summit so the Arabs can come up with specific demands for the two superpowers.

The same sources added there is no possibility the summit might convene in Alexandria, as some news reports are suggesting. The sources pointed out Egypt does not want to get into any competition over the venue of this summit, because its basic concern is to ensure the summit adopts decisions that could strengthen the unity of the Arab ranks and clear inter-Arab differences.

Libya

Greek Envoy Hears Protest on Ties With Israel

LD0805202890 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has had a meeting with an envoy of the Greek Foreign Ministry. They reviewed Arab-Greek relations and ways of boosting them in the common interest of the two friendly peoples.

The brother secretary told the Greek envoy that his country's decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy adversely affects the excellent historic and cultural links between the Arab and Greek peoples, explaining that this decision by the Greek government is a serious change in Greece's 40-year firm position supporting the rights of the Arab Palestinian people, which are subjected to the most hideous forms of repression by the Zionist enemy.

Sudan's Khalifah, Delegation Arrive in Tripoli

Met by Colonel Jabir

LD0805134190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Lt. Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolutionary Command Council in sister Sudan, and the accompanying delegation arrived at noon today in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Col. Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir was on hand to welcome brother Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and his accompanying delegation at Tripoli International Airport.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0905093690 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 9 May, JAMAHIRIYAH News Agency—The leader of the revolution received yesterday Mr. [as received] M. Khalifah member of Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan.

Mr. [as received] Khalifah relayed to the leader of the revolution a message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan.

Khalifah on Integration Process

LD0905093190 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 9 May, JAMAHIRIYAH News Agency—Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council and chairman of the Conference of National Dialogue, declared that integration process between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan will witness in the next few days further advance.

In a statement, published yesterday by the newspaper of the Sudanese Armed Forces, he said that the appropriate organs are to start the implementation of the organs and formation of a general secretariat for integration between the two countries once the integration project and organizational structure are endorsed by the general people's congress in Great Jamahiriyah.

Jabir Hosts Banquet

LD0905090490 Tripoli JANA in English 0820 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 9 May JAMAHIRIYAH News Agency—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir gave [words indistinct] a banquet in honor of [Lieutenant] Colonel M.A. Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan, and his accompanying delegation.

Present at this banquet were a number of officers of the armed people and the ambassador of sisterly Sudan accredited to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Tunisian Defense Minister Arrives for Visit

LD0905173890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 8 May (JANA)—Brother Abdallah Kallel, minister of Defense in fraternal Tunisia, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi welcomed him at Tripoli Airport.

Brother Abdallah Kallel made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his pleasure at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah as an envoy of President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali to his brother the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution in the framework of the contacts and consultations related to all the issues of the Arab Maghreb Union and the fraternal and strong bilateral relations.

[JANA in English at 0812 GMT on 9 May states that Mr. Kallel met with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on 8 May.]

Morocco

Algiers Reports Islamic Demonstration, Dispersal

LD0805203490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] In Morocco, the Islamic movement is testing the regime by choosing the street, today for the first time, to submit their demands. What happened today in Rabat? Colleague Ahmed Boudrig:

[Boudrig] More than 2,000 Islamic activists held a two-hour sit-in this afternoon opposite the Court of Appeals in Rabat. The Court of Appeals was about to try six members of the Consultative Council of the banned Islamic organization Justice and Charity. The six members who are being tried by the Court of Appeals were sentenced last March to two years imprisonment. They were accused of membership in a banned organization, collecting money by illegal methods, and distributing opposition leaflets.

The demonstrators protesting against the trial found themselves surrounded by the security forces. Then a dialogue was opened between the demonstrators and officials of the Moroccan Interior Ministry to convince them either to disperse or enter the court building. The proposals were categorically rejected. Orders were given to the police to use force. Some of the demonstrators were forced against their will to enter the security forces and join them.

There is news the interrogation of the demonstrators is continuing.

Soviet Envoy Andropov Arrives for 'Consultations'

LD0805143790 Rabat MAP in English 1253 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Rabat, May 8, (MAP)—Soviet roving ambassador Igor Andropov foreign affairs Monday arrived here on a visit to Morocco [sentence as received]. During his stay, the Soviet envoy will have "political consultations with Moroccan officials from the Foreign Affairs Department on issues related to the Mediterranean," a source closed the Soviet Embassy here said.

Parliament Issues Communique on Palestinian Issue

LD0805142390 Rabat MAP in English 1237 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Rabat, May 8 (MAP)—The Moroccan House of Representatives (parliament) held Monday afternoon a special session devoted to examining developments of the Palestinian and the U.S. Congress stand on Jerusalem.

A communique circulated at the end of the session pointed out that the house noted the seriousness of the Soviet Jews' massive emigration to Palestine that it considered as a new plot against the Palestinian people, meant to settle new Jews in the Arab territories and expell the Palestinians from their homeland with a view to materializing the dream of the "great Israel" in violation of international laws, conventions and human rights.

The house condemned the U.S. Congress resolution considering Jerusalem as Israel's "eternal capital" saying this resolution ignores international laws and resolutions and is contrary to the U.S. Government's international commitments.

The Moroccan house which reaffirmed backing to the resolutions of the Jerusalem committee and its positive initiatives to take up the challenges thrown at the Arab-Islamic nation, decided to conduct a move, in collaboration with Arab and Isalamic parliaments, to convince the U.S. Congress [to] reconsider its stand and call on parliaments throughout the world to endeavour for the safeguard of Jerusalem. The house which reiterated full solidarity with the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle and backing to the intifadah voiced the need to find a lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem through the holding of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East that will recognize the Palestinian people's right to statehood and self-rule under the leadership of its legitimate representative, the PLO, the communique stated.

Kuwaitis Exempted From Requirement on Visas

LD0805124390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1123 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 8 (KUNA)—The Moroccan Government has decided to exempt Kuwaiti nationals from obtaining entry visas, Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait (?Abdelouahad Benmasoud) said Tuesday.

The ambassador told KUNA that the decision was reached on the occasion of the visit by Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed Sin Hassan to Kuwait.

He added the move will strengthen relations between the two countries in accordance with the directions of King Hassan II of Morocco and His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The Moroccan crown prince left Kuwait Tuesday ending a four-day official visit.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Coup, Political System

'No Return to Partisan Rule'

EA0805164390 Khartoum SUNA in English 1019 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 May (SUNA)—[Lieutenant] General 'Umar al-Bashir, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman and general commander of the Armed Forces, has reaffirmed that the recent abortive coup attempt was a treason against the Sudan and its people. Addressing officers and troops at Wadi Sayyidna Military Base, General al-Bashir said the unity of the Armed Forces was behind the failure of the coup attempt.

General al-Bashir has vowed the revolution would never give an inch with regard to security and stability of Sudan. General al-Bashir said there would be no return to the partisan rule in the Sudan.

We are not warmongers, but we are fighting for peace realisation, General al-Bashir said.

Cited on 'Popular Participation'

JN0805175990 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Doha, May 8 (GNA) Chairman of Sudan National Salvation Revolution Council [Lieutenant] Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir said arrangements were underway for establishing a political system to allow popular participation in ruling the country.

Gen. al-Bashir, interviewed by Qatari AL-RAYAH newspaper, said the new political system would not be similar to the Socialist Union of former President Ja'far Numayri.

Asked about recent executions of Army officers accused of attempting a coup he said those executions were not arbitrary but were carried out after the plotters were caught red handed, and in accordance with Armed Forces law.

Gen. al-Bashir said the coup organizers had been working to seize power since 1979 and attempted since then to seize power many times, but failed.

Gen. al-Bashir said the national salvation revolution was the most tolerant in the history of Sudan and had come to power without bloodshed.

The revolution never harshly treated political detainees, and all of them had been freed, except three who were put under house arrest, said Gen. al-Bashir.

He said 64 Army officers had taken part in the recent coup attempt, some of them planned and practically took part and some of them only planned.

Gen. al-Bashir said they were serious in seeking peaceful solution to [the] south Sudan problem, but noted that rebel leader John Garang was free to take decisions due to being under influence of Ethiopia and other foreign circles.

Bahrain

Amir Receives British Foreign Office Minister

JN0805111490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Manama, 8 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah today received Patrick Wright, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, who is currently visiting Manama. Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and British ambassador in Manama John Allan Shepherd [name as received] attended the meeting.

The British official arrived in Manama last night on a two-day visit to Bahrain.

Interior Minister Departs for London 9 May

JN0905103790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0901 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Manama, 9 May (WAKH)—Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah left Manama today for London on a several-day official visit to Britain at the invitation of British Secretary of State at the Home Office David Waddington.

During the visit, the Bahraini minister will conduct talks with his British counterpart on means to promote security cooperation between the two countries, and issues of joint interest.

Kuwait

Interior Ministry Issues Statement on Rally

LD0905082390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0706 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 9 (KUNA)—Security men Tuesday dispersed a crowd of people who tried to stage an unauthorized rally in al-Rawdha suburb at the diwaniya of one of the area's citizens, an Interior Ministry statement said last night.

The owner of the diwaniya, Abdul Mohsen Farhan al-Farhan and Dr Ahmed al-Khatib, a former parliament member, have been arrested for refusing to heed warnings by security officials not to address the illegal gathering, the statement said.

Six other people were also arrested for trying to resist security men and prevent them from doing their job to end the meeting, the statement added.

The Interior Ministry said the eight detainess were referred to investigation as a prelude to send them for general prosecution.

The ministry reaffirmed that it will always work for maintaining law and order and reminded the people of its earlier statements calling on them to respect regulations which ban unauthorized public meetings.

Envoy Delivers Message to Mubarak, Returns Home

LD0805210690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1912 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 8 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud M. al-'Usaymi returned here this afternoon after a short visit to Cairo during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak. Earlier in the day, al-'Usaymi met with Mubarak and handed him the message from his highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir. He told reporters that the message deals with bilateral relations and Arab and Islamic issues of concern.

PDRY

Foreign Minister on Restored U.S. Relations

PM0905103990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 May 90 p 1

[Hani Naqshabandi report: "'Abd-al-Aziz Al-Dali Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Relations With Washington Based on Equality"]

[Text] Aden—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the [Yemeni Socialist Party] Political Bureau and foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT his country's relations with the United States, restored 30 April, will not be at the expense of its other friends "who gave us aid and support in our times of difficulty in the past."

Al-Dali said cooperation with the socialist states during the past years was founded on the considerable aid these states extended to the PDRY, compared with the aid received from other countries, but that does not mean bilateral cooperation with these states was based on ideological foundations.

The foreign minister said Yemeni, Arab, and international developments were a significant incentive for restoring diplomatic relations between Aden and Washington based on equality. He added his country did not wish to end or reduce its relations with some states in the interest of other states, because the PDRY's political and economic reforms call for establishing additional good relations to add to what already is there, not to reduce the country's international relations.

Al-Dali said relations cannot be at the same level with all states of the world. Relations, he said, are a changing dynamic process depending on the degree of cooperation. "If there are enough factors warranting the development of relations, then these factors would undoubtedly govern the degree of such development. Our relations with the Western states will, therefore, depend on the level of transaction which usually follows restoration of relations with such states."

Asked to comment on the claim that, in the past, the PDRY's relations were based more on ideological foundations than on effective development aid from other countries, al-Dali said this assessment was far from the truth. The fact the PDRY's socialist policies, he said, were in harmony with the socialist states did not mean cooperation was based on ideological foundations, for every state has a right to choose its own system; cooperation was based on the aid provided by these countries according to their resources, and it was considerable compared with the aid from other states.

The PDRY foreign minister said his country wanted to benefit from cooperation with the advanced states in restructuring and developing its national economy to dimensions that go beyond merely getting aid from other states.

In conclusion, Dr. al-Dali emphasized that in its foreign relations, the PDRY would continue to maintain a balanced approach based on equality. He added: "We will not permit ourselves to become a subservient state."

Saddam Addresses Nuclear 'Triggers' in Speech

JN0805141090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1204 GMT 8 May 90

["Full recording" of speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn at the Arab popular conference for solidarity with Iraq in Baghdad on 8 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Nay, we hurl truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish! [Koranic verse] The Arabs are welcome. The people are welcome. The nation is welcome. You are welcome in your Baghdad, which was built by al-Mansur. It was built by the Arabs. When it was built, Baghdad was called on to become an Arab symbol, not merely an ordinary city. Our honest duty dictates we revive the glory of Baghdad and revive the determination to maintain Baghdad as the symbol of the Arabs. As Arab citizens and people, brothers, we know duty dictates, among other things, that if Baghdad is to maintain the historical and moral status on which it was founded, it must make any sacrifice to safeguard the principles for which the Arab nation is struggling.

You and we have frequently talked about the role of imperialism and Zionism, and the dangers of imperialist, Israeli, and Zionist policies. I believe, however, that duty dictates we talk about our weaknesses so we can overcome them. [applause] We also should talk about our strengths, so as to examine and build on them. Then we would be in a better position. If we were asked whether there is room to go backward, we would clearly say there is no room for going backward [applause]. This is not because your brothers in Baghdad are seeking more attention in the world spotlight, but because they are aware of the nature of their pan-Arab responsibility and know going backward at this stage means losing an opportunity. The current opportunity is not a short, specific period of time whose loss means only the loss of a short, specific period of time. The opportunity we are talking about is an historic opportunity. For the Arab nation it means one of two things: either being in a position to move toward objectives that would restore to the nation its humanity and human role—a position it should and must be in; or that the nation remains in the position its enemies want it to be in.

Since we all know—and here I am still talking about the idea of citizenship, the citizens, the people, and the nation—and I repeat, because we know there is no room for us to fall behind, we must go forward. Before we go forward, we must also realize that there is no going forward without sacrifice. We must accept this with confidence—that is, we must be secure within ourselves and not be shaken—that going forward must be accompanied by sacrifice, and that sacrifice is a duty, not only to live for the sake of eating, as we have said before, but to live to perform our national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role as civilized people, as we have said on previous occasions.

We live in a way that keeps a clear balance between material and spiritual things. We always prefer what is moral in achieving our hopes of progress and of forward or upward mobility to what is material, especially when it is of a kind that burdens life to such an extent it forces it into a deep abyss or into the situation desired by the enemies of the Arab nation.

Therefore, is there any room for us to retreat? Withdrawal means the triumph of a will opposed to our own, and that will wants our nation to be in a backward state. It wants to continue to see a large number of bare-footed people in the nation. It wants to keep seeing hungry people in the nation, pale-faced, having nothing but starvation. It wants to keep a distance between the sons of the nation and the rays of the sun to which we must cling to properly perform our humanitarian duty.

When did the media campaign against your country, Iraq, start? Was the media campaign really initiated just against Iraq? I agree with those who say the media is not against Iraq alone, but the whole Arab nation; [applause] however, this time it found a headline for itself. Its choice of a headline—its choice of Iraq to concentrate on in its campaign was made because Iraq itself chose the slogan of Arabism and the Arab nation. [applause] They chose to make an open, clear, and direct attack on behalf of those called the big ones, because the little ones failed to achieve the objective under the circumstances and history you know.

They were forced to choose their timing. They were forced in the sense they do not want the nation to progress. They do not want the nation to maintain its humanity and achieve what it needs to properly perform its humanitarian role. We are compelled yet free at the same time, because we insist that the nation take its proper humanitarian position. [applause]

Therefore, the contest, dear brothers, is not a simple one. We know this through our experience of shouldering this responsibility, that is, the responsibility of the state, for a period of 22 years. The responsibility in the struggle extends nearly 40 years in this country. We know the contest is between two parties, each of which believes the contest itself is what will decide the opportunity of that party—and the opportunity here is not a technical one, but one of a much wider perspective that must be rigorous and strong.

When I said we were compelled, yet free, to join the contest, I meant we were not willing to harm anyone, but we were basically willing to move toward the goals you know. These goals are natural and within the Arab nation's legitimate rights underscored by UN conventions and the human rights declaration. Yet they claim they are the protectors of human rights. We were forced, but we did it willingly because we believed in the policy we pursued.

I hope my brothers in this conference will consider that the contest will be a relatively long one, but shorter than the previous one [applause]. The enemies in the coming

contest will adopt various methods: They will choose people from among us to play a role while they attack our external defenses. But we assure you—and this is with the confidence of believers—that the outcome of the contest will be a victory for the Arab nation against its enemies and a defeat for the aggressors. [applause]

Those who believe the nation can retreat or that Iraq, which is part of the nation, can retreat are mistaken. How can we possibly retreat? From what shall we retreat? Is it possible for an honorable man to sacrifice his honor [applause]? Is it possible for the nation to abandon its goals? Is it possible for a free man to relinquish his freedom? Shall we abandon our right to exist? Shall we abandon the new national slogan—namely, scientific and technological progress? Those who abandon scientific and technological progress in their country will be abandoning their national identity [applause]. Scientific and technological progress, my brothers, is the slogan of this age. The future, life, dignity, and nationalism of states, nations, and peoples are measured and influenced by the extent of their scientific and technological progress. [applause]

Those who claim their country is independent can only prove it by the extent of their seriousness in the field of scientific and technological progress, both military and civilian. Those who seek seriously to develop their countries scientifically and technologically are pursuing a sound and serious policy to protect their national identity and dignity in the present and the future. Those who do not follow and implement a careful, firm, and continuous program of scientific and technological progress—and this applies to the Arabs in particular—will have their national identity or national program fundamentally shaken.

The campaign, my brothers, began after our will triumphed over attempts by our direct enemies, or those who have acted as enemies to wage aggression and hostility against the Arab nation. The campaign began after al-Faw, al-Shalamjah, the Majnun Islands, al-Zubaydat, the blessed Ramadan liberation operations, the Allahu Akbar operations, the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah operations, and after the Muhammad Rasul Allah operations. [applause]

They have told us this ever since we were young men struggling for the sake of freedom, progress, and the nation and until we reached this level of responsibility. They said the Arab will triumphed in the past because the Arab mentality is of a simple nature. The Arabs triumphed in the past because their mentality was suited to physical strength, and primitive weapons were suited to the Arab mentality and endurance. That is why the Arabs triumphed in the past. But now, as the mind is of greater importance in the use of complex weapons, there is no way for the Arabs to achieve victory.

When the Arabs triumphed through Iraq's triumph, they caused a great uproar because it was great and clear proof the Arabs are able in terms of faith, will, and mentality to achieve victory in defense of justice. [applause] The onslaught followed with its headlines. One headline was designed to launch a campaign to prevent the legal implementation of a death sentence against a spy, a spy for Israel. He also had a British travel permit. The British consul was summoned to attend every phase of the investigation and trial proceedings. A lawyer also was appointed to defend him. Moreover, they acquainted themselves with every detail of the trial. But they wanted Iraq to back down so spies can move around as they wish to destroy Iraq from the inside and render it unable to act and make decisions.

Another headline was designed to harass Iraq whenever it bought equipment from the West, to deprive it and the Arab nation of their right to look to the future. We cannot look to the future properly and with a successful program, as I have said, without being real masters in technology and science. This campaign against Iraq is the first of its kind in the world, not only because of its geography and nationalism, but also because Iraq is part of the Arab nation [applause] and because progress in Iraq, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia will certainly reflect positively on the Arab nation. Iraq, therefore, was targeted. Some say we must calm the situation. Yes, we will calm the situation. Does anyone actually seek evil? But we will ease the situation without abandoning our rights in Palestine [applause]. We will calm things down without reducing the support for the people of the heroic intifadah in Palestine. [applause]

We will calm things down without going back on our pan-Arab program for sovereignty, dignity, and scientific and technological progress. [applause] If the situation has eased in London and Washington, in other words, if their campaigns have been suspended for a time, this does not mean that they have abandoned their program. We will believe that the campaign has really ended when it is proven to us that they have reversed their policy. Regarding Israel, how can we ease tension before restoring our full rights—the rights of the people of Palestine? [applause]

The enemies have shot their arrows; they have prepared their plans; and they have launched a campaign from the West against Iraq. If we ease tensions without making our counterattack achieve its goals, it means they have defeated us. Your meeting in Baghdad is part of the counteroffensive against the evil intentions of the enemies and against their base and vile methods. [applause]

Husayn [Kamil, Iraqi minister of industry and military industrialization], is this not the capacitor about which they made a fuss, and said it is a nuclear bomb triggering device? This is it. [applause] This is the American capacitor they said Iraq imported. They did not catch all the ones that were delivered. [laughter and applause] This is it. They imported it for the Technology University students. They said it is a nuclear bomb trigger. By God, I do not know; I have not seen a nuclear bomb, and I do not know what its trigger looks like. Only five days after the U.S. announcement and clamor, our men

manufactured—without asking them at all to do this—these two that are made in Iraq. [applause] This model was manufactured by the [Industrialization] Establishment; this model was manufactured by the Establishment; and this model is the American model. [applause] If the British or Americans want to make a contract with the establishments that manufactured these two models, we will transfer them to these establishments for negotiations. [applause]

If they believe our will, which was built over tens of years on clear principles to serve the nation, the people, and mankind will retreat, they are greatly deluded. [applause and the voice of an unidentified person saying he is a Lebanese Maronite who came to Iraq to declare loyalty to pan-Arabism and its hero Saddam Husayn] If they believed pan-Arabism differentiates between a Christian Arab and a Muslim Arab and puts them at odds on this basis, the enemies would relax. However, because they know pan-Arabism neither differentiates nor fragments, but unites, they fight pan-Arabism. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: This is our stance. We do not like to speak too much. We say this is the pledge of honest strugglers. I do not say this is the pledge of only men, because the glorious Iraqi women have a role. [applause] We reiterate everything we have said and spoke about in letter and spirit. We neither seek nor hope to fight anyone. But what shall we do about those who decide to fight our nation if it does not give up its dignity, sovereignty, and usurped lands? We must support the nation, the nation's rights, and the nation's dignity and accept all sacrifices mandated by God. This is an honor. [applause]

Thank you, and I wish you continuous and noble pride and glory, God willing. [applause]

Moroccan Crown Prince Arrives on Official Visit

JN0805180090 Baghdad INA in English 1402 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, May 8, INA—The Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed Ben-Hassan II arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq lasting several days.

His highness was accorded an official reception at Saddam International Airport headed by Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council.

After a short rest at the airport, Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim accompanied the Moroccan crown prince in a motorcade to his residence. [passage omitted]

Confers With Saddam

JN0805201690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 8 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received this evening His Highness Mohamed Ben-Hassan II, crown prince of Morocco, and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali.

The prince conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The message centered on the strong ties between the two fraternal countries, how to promote them to serve their joint interests, and pan-Arab issues. [passage omitted]

Romanian Official Arrives for Cooperation Talks

JN0905084290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Gheorghe Tarlescu, the Romanian premier's adviser [name and title as received], has arrived in Baghdad at the head of a delegation on a several-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said during the visit he will conduct talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral cooperation.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Brunei

JN0905100090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0859 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Iraq and Brunei have agreed to establish diplomatic relations as of the first of this month. This came in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today.

Bulgarian Justice Minister Leaves Baghdad 9 May

JN0905100390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Bulgarian Justice Minister Pencho Stoyanov Penev and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad today following a five-day visit to Iraq.

The Bulgarian minister told INA his visit to Iraq was fruitful and successful, during which he signed a judicial cooperation agreement between Iraq and Bulgaria.

He was seen off at the airport by a number of the Justice Ministry officials and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Agudat Yisra'el Rejects Narrow Likud Government

TA0805193090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el this evening served notice to the prime minister that it will only join a national unity government and rejected the possibility of joining a narrow-based government. Our correspondents Arye Golan and Shlomo Raz report that the meeting with the Likud negotiating team lasted a long time, and Agudat Yisra'el's representatives said they had been disappointed by the Likud's moves during the establishment of the previous government.

Mr. Shamir and the Likud ministers apologized, and the prime minister said that the misunderstandings of the past should be no reason not to cooperate in the future. According to Shamir, Agudat Yisra'el should not mend its ties with the Alignment in a mechanical and automatic manner. He called on Agudat Yisra'el to enter serious negotiations on guidelines similar to those of the outgoing government, placing the emphasis on opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and negotiations with the PLO.

Labor Party Responds 'Affirmatively' to Unity

Prepared To Enter Negotiations

TA0905081290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0755 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Labor Party decided to respond affirmatively to the NRP [National Religious Party] document. That means the Labor Party is prepared to enter into negotiations on the establishment of a unity government with the Likud.

The NRP representatives are right now arriving at a meeting with the Alignment team at the Knesset to officially receive the Labor Party's affirmative response. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the Alignment plans to present to its institutions several problematic issues. Among other things, the Alignment insists on maintaining parity in the government, and that its guidelines will include the Inner Cabinet resolution of November in which the government approved Baker's five points.

The Labor Party is therefore paving the way for a unity government.

Unity Resolution Detailed

TA0905084690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Labor Party is prepared to join a unity government. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Labor Party leaders decided that the party's follow-up team consisting of Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Mikha Harish will decide on how to advance the peace process after the Alignment is asked to join the government.

The party's dovish camp sharply opposed the decision. The chairman of the Alignment's Knesset faction said he would try to mobilize a majority in the Central Committee against joining a unity government. Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Ramon said the decision to join means giving up the peace process. 'Ezer Weizman said he is angry with those who humiliate themselves. He left the meeting organized by the Alignment leaders to discuss the NRP [National Religious Party] proposals before it was over.

MK Gad Ya'aqobi will bring the Alignment response to the NRP representatives.

Arye Golan reports from the Knesset:

At this moment we received the precise formulation of the resolution adopted by the former Labor Party ministers as proposed by MK Yitzhaq Rabin, the former defense minister. The former ministerial team approved Rabin's proposal. It is based on the NRP proposal. The following are the clauses of the Labor Party resolution:

1. The national unity government will be based on the guidelines of the outgoing government and on the unity government's peace plan approved by the Cabinet on 14 May 1989 and by the Inner Cabinet on 6 November 1989.

2. The political and security decisions will be taken in the full Cabinet.

3. There will be no Inner Cabinet.

4. The government will act for the continuation of the political peace process and will guarantee security, aliyah, and settlement.

A clause which was removed from the resolution said: Immediately on its establishment the government will take steps for a dialogue on the practical moves to be taken for the continuation of the political process. That will be done over two months from the establishment of the government. That clause was wiped out.

The fifth clause finally agreed on after the discussion was:

5. With its establishment the government will present a bill which calls for Knesset elections within 100 days if the unity government is disbanded. All procedures for the adoption of the bill will take no longer than one month. The practical political steps will not commence before the final adoption of that law in the Knesset.

6. The prime minister will appeal to all the Zionist and ultraorthodox parties to join the government or a coalition on the basis of those guidelines on condition that parity is maintained between the Likud and the Labor Party as was the case with the establishment of the unity government in December 1988. The parity mechanism, such as the transfer of the decision to the Knesset plenum, will be determined in negotiations.

7. The law on dismissal of ministers will be abolished.

Detainees To Be Freed Only After POW's Return

TA0905050290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The chief of staff, General Dan Shomron, says there are no contacts regarding the release of hostages, nor any real proposal in this respect. Gen. Shomron said Israel would free the detainees it is holding to win the release of American hostages, but first wants to see the return of its own POW's. He was speaking at a gathering in Tel Aviv held by Bar-Ilan University, which is organizing scholarships in the name of Yoni Netanyahu, who fell in the commando attack to release the Israeli hostages in Entebbe in 1976. [In a similar report at 0400 GMT on 9 May, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew reports that "Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin says that Israel is prepared to use all the cards it has to bring about the release of the hostages and the POW's. He claimed that Shaykh 'Ubayd is one of the cards Israel holds."] Netanyahu's brother, Binyamin, now deputy foreign minister, told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the lesson of Entebbe is not to knuckle under to terrorism:

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] The lesson of Entebbe is that free societies, if they muster the courage, the determination, the resolve, can overcome threatening evil however barbaric, however overpowering.

[Ben-'Ami] In Entebbe in 1976 the issue was freeing Israeli hostages. Today there are other hostages and there are calls from America for Israel to make some sort of a gesture to perhaps release Shiite prisoners Israel is holding as a gesture to try and encourage the release of hostages. How do you feel about that?

[Netanyahu] Well, Israel is holding detainees. They are, of course, not hostages; these are not innocent bystanders yanked off the street of Beirut. But these are people who were trying to infiltrate Israel's northern border to perpetrate violence against us. We are holding these detainees and we are prepared to exchange them for our own POW's. Like any country, we want to bring our boys back home. If, in the course of this exchange, the Western hostages are released, we will, of course, be delighted. So much the better.

[Ben-'Ami] There is a way, perhaps, of getting the process started: releasing, as a gesture, some of these prisoners. Do you think that is viable, feasible?

[Netanyahu] Well, I think that the message is out there; the possibilities for an exchange for POW's is out there. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 9 May adds that Netanyahu said "the United States has not pressured Israel on the release of prisoners but he added that Israel is cooperating with the U.S. Administration and other countries on the matter."] The question, really, should be directed at those who are holding the hostages and those who influence those who are holding the hostages, and those are the Governments of Syria and Iran. They can effect the release of all hostages, they can bring our boys back home, and they can effect the release of these detainees for our boys as well, if they so wish. In any case, we would be delighted to see all the hostages, and of course our POW's, come back home and come back home safely. [end recording]

Treasury Estimates Funding Needed for Immigration

TA0905070290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Israel may need nearly 4 billion shekels for immigrant absorption this year. This, according to a new plan proposed by the Finance Ministry, which calls on the Cabinet to cut its annual expenses by 500 million shekels and increase the budgetary deficit by more than a billion shekels. Treasury officials who estimate that the state budget is short at least 1.8 billion shekels will continue discussing the matter today. Steve Linde reports:

The Treasury plan puts the potential cost of absorbing immigrants just this year at 3.875 billion shekels. The breakdown is as follows: direct absorption [process whereby immigrants are not first accommodated in absorption centers] funding—1.4 billion shekels; building and renovation—200 million shekels; mortgages for immigrants—nearly 1 billion shekels; infrastructure—more than 170 million shekels; employment—70 million shekels; and in the event that the projected number of immigrants rises by one-third, a further sum of at least 1 billion shekels.

Where will all this money come from? The Cabinet will be asked next week to cut its expenses by 500 million shekels in order to provide some of the funds. And there is talk in both the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel of overhauling the state budget. This is not the first time that the Treasury has proposed drastic measures to cope with the influx of immigrants, and it is not at all certain that its recommendations will be adopted.

Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno doubts that the government can make substantial budget cuts. He says that while the Treasury makes declarations, unemployment and inflation continue to rise. Bruno maintains that decisive steps can only be taken once a new government is formed.

Editorial: 'Israel Cannot Ignore World Opinion'

TA0805150590 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 7 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Let Israel Know What the World Wants"]

[Text] The reaction to the possibility of forming a new Israeli government led by the Likud was not a happy one. Hardly a word of praise came from any party except the Israeli right wing which is known for its racist and fascist behavior.

The feeling of melancholy and disappointment did not come from nowhere. It is based on the Likud's attitude to many issues, most particularly the peace process in the Middle East. No sooner was Likud leader and current Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asked to form the new

government, than he uttered words totally against peace efforts by Israel's best and only ally, the United States.

Speaking on the 42nd anniversary of Israel's creation, Shamir criticized U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace plan and pledged to increase settlement-building in the occupied territories. This prompted a strong reaction from both the United States and Egypt, which expressed concern that Shamir's antipeace stance might obstruct the over two years of U.S.-led efforts aimed at bringing parties to the Middle East conflict to the negotiating table.

These concerns and fears are not without merit. Shamir and his Likud party's opposition to peace with the Palestinians is well-known and well-tested. The former national unity government in Israel fell because of the Likud's insistence on no compromise over anything. The Likud wants the land without the people, if possible. It wants peace according to its own terms, namely subjugating the entire Palestinian people to Israeli rule and unconditional and full Palestinian surrender to Israel. This is what will please the Likud.

But the Likud and its allies know that this is not what will happen. Even if the "Beirut Butcher" and Palestinian-hater Ari'el Sharon was given the post of defense minister, Israel would not get what the Likud wants. Sharon may commit massacres, such as Sabra and Shatila, and may talk about his experience in the Gaza Strip in the early 1970s as an example of his ability to crush the Palestinian uprising, but the conflict will continue and the Palestinians will continue to demand their rights.

Shamir, Sharon and the entire Likud and their allies have only temporary answers to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Everyone knows this. Force and destruction were never a determinant for conflict resolution. On the contrary, they create more conflicts. The Palestinian problem will not be solved by ignoring it or treating it as a bad dream that will go away in the morning.

The United States and many countries have realized this fact and begun dealing with it realistically. Israel, and in particular the Likud and other right-wing groups, remains the only party still refusing to face this fact. But can Israel continue to behave this way on its own? The answer is simply no. Israel cannot ignore world opinion forever. If the world is serious about resolving this conflict it should let Israel know that immediately.

Turkey's Tension With Syria Aids Improved Ties

TA0905072590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 May 90 p 1

[By David Makovsky]

[Text] After a decade of coolness, relations between Turkey and Israel are slowly warming up, due in no small measure to tension between the Turks and the Syrians, Israeli sources said yesterday.

The senior Turkish official in Israel, Charge d'Affaires Ekrem Guvendiren, met with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. Foreign Ministry officials said this was the first time in 10 years that Turkey had consented to a public, high-level meeting between both countries. While refusing to elaborate, Arens said afterwards that he was "satisfied" with new progress in a number of fields.

Turkish-Syrian relations are under strain. Israeli sources say Syrians have been training Kurds against the Turkish regime. In January, Turkey cut the flow of the Euphrates River to Syria and Iraq for a month in order to fill the reservoir of the Ataturk Dam.

Turkey is said to have been pleased by quiet Israeli opposition to a resolution in the U.S. Senate commemorating the genocide of the Armenians. Turkey denies that it killed 1.5 million Armenians from 1915-1923.

Last year, Turkey, in a change of policy, voted against the perennial UN General Assembly resolution to reject Israel's credentials.

8 May Incidents in Occupied Territories Reported

TA0905110090

[Editorial Report] Writing on page 12 of the 9 May issue of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, Matthew Seriphs reports that "a drug dealer in Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was stabbed to death late Monday night [7 May] by 15 masked youths who also wounded his brother.

"Meanwhile, curfews remained in place in Tulkarm and Rafah," adds Seriphs. Also, "in Nabulus, pupils staged a march from the Education Office to the Casbah, while women staged a sit-in at the Red Cross office in the city to protest against reports of new settlements in the territories.

"An Army patrol was attacked by bottles containing acid yesterday afternoon near Bet Romano in the centre of Hebron. No one was injured. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] closed a number of shops in the area and searched the area for those responsible."

Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin, writing for Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on page A2 of the 9 May edition, report that "two locals were injured yesterday in clashes between soldiers and residents of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus." They add that "Palestinian sources reported another injury in Ramallah."

Be'er and Rabin also report that "al-Fadaliyah school in Tulkarm was closed yesterday following student riots. Another school in the village of al-Jib in the Ramallah district was closed for a similar reason."

According to Be'er and Rabin, "Palestinian sources have reported that in yesterday's clashes in the Gaza Strip eight locals were injured. The incidents occurred mainly in the southern refugee camps and in the city of Gaza. Despite the curfew on Rafah, a number of clashes took place there."

Later in the report they say that "the representative of the IDF spokesman in the Southern Command reported local clashes in the Gaza Strip and a curfew in Rafah, but claimed no injuries were recorded in Gaza."

A front-page report in Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 9 May by Dani Rubinstein, Dani Tzidqoni, and Yoram Levi adds that "the security forces demolished illegal structures in the village of al-'Ubaydiyat south of Bethlehem as well as in the villages of Fahmah and Jaba' in the Janin district." Additionally, "a night-time curfew is in force in several places in Samaria (such as in 'Anabta, Mashah, 'Ayn Yabrud, and the al-Duhayshah refugee camp.)"

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 9 May carries a report by Ben Kaspit on page A8, saying that "Hasan 'Abd-al-Rabbuh, a 28-year-old man from Bayt Jala described as Fatah's representative in the uprising, was sentenced yesterday by the Lod military court to seven years in jail, of which three and a half are suspended.

"'Abd-al-Rabbuh was convicted of membership in Fatah and of granting services to the uprising leadership by formulating some of the intifadah leaflets in accordance with suggestions made by Dr. Sari Nusaybah."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 9 May reports that "there were a number of stone-throwing incidents late yesterday: A woman from the Na'ale settlement near Ramallah was hit near the village of Kharbata; in Jerusalem's Old City a young Israeli woman was slightly wounded when she was hit in the head with a stone. Also in Jerusalem, another Israeli woman was injured while she rode in a taxi. At Kafr Hanina, stones were thrown at an Israeli bus. In response, passengers got out and smashed the windows of a nearby house.

"Military sources say soldiers made a mistake yesterday when they closed off the town of 'Anabta and declared it was a closed military zone. The closure took place when members of the Betzelem human rights organization attempted a fact-finding visit to 'Anabta. The group registered complaints over the affair with the prime minister's and defense minister's offices. The head of the Central Command has ordered his soldiers to allow freedom of movement to Betzelem members if their activities do not interfere with Army operations."

Chedli Klibi Arrives in Amman To Discuss Summit

JN0805202190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Amman from Damascus at noon today on a short visit to Jordan. He will meet with senior officials as part of Arab consultations and contacts regarding plans to hold an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

Confers With Badran

JN0805203290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1438 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Amman, 8 May (PETRA)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office today Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also attended. During the meeting, Chedli Klibi briefed the prime minister on recent efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit conference.

The prime minister said that Jordan supports the convening of an Arab summit because the Arab nation is facing dangers and challenges that require a speedy summit conference to determine what the Arab nation can do to counter these challenges. The prime minister also briefed the Arab League secretary general on Jordanian and Saudi efforts to secure the convening of the summit. Chedli Klibi praised these efforts, saying they were in line with the Arab League's efforts to convene the summit.

Departs After Talks

JN0905115890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Amman at noon today after a visit to Jordan during which he held talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, concerning current Arab events and preparations for convening the extraordinary Arab summit.

Saudi Prince Departs; Badran Calls for Summit

JN0805123190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, left Amman for Cairo today after a two-day visit to Jordan. During his visit, his highness held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on the current Arab situation and relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

In a statement following His Highness Prince 'Abdallah's departure, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said there is a pressing need to hold an Arab summit because everyone knows that there is an obvious onslaught against the Arab nation. According to the prince, the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and the effort to expand settlement not only threaten the Palestine question and Jordan, but also the entire Arab nation. He added that fraternal Saudi Arabia's current efforts center on closing Arab ranks. His Highness Prince 'Abdallah arrived in Cairo a short while ago.

Badran Discusses Talks

JN0805194690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 May 90

[Statement by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to reporters Jawad al-'Umari and Khalil al-Qaryuti in Amman on 8 May following Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz' departure—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you assess the current Arab efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad?

[Badran] I have said previously that there is a pressing need to convene an Arab summit conference. It is common knowledge that there is an obvious campaign and onslaught against the Arab nation. What is happening in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories and the plans being implemented to expand the settlement do not only pose a danger to the Palestine question, Palestinian territory, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, but also to the entire Arab nation. Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, therefore, requested the convocation of an emergency summit conference to discuss this issue and that Baghdad be the summit's venue. Many Arab countries and their leaders have agreed to attend. Also, as we have heard through the media, there are other countries that have not agreed. They want the date and venue to be specified in accordance with a prior agreement by the foreign ministers. Our view is that international events require an early conference. In addition, the meeting between the U.S. and Soviet presidents expected at the end of this month requires that we draw up a unified Arab strategy. This way, any decision the superpower summit might take regarding the Palestine question can consider a unified Arab position.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, after talks with His Highness Prince 'Abdallah in Amman, what are the basic issues underlying current Saudi activity?

[Badran] The purpose of Saudi activity is to unify the Arabs and secure the attendance of all Arab leaders at the summit. This is what Saudi Arabia is seeking.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, have the topics of the economic situation and Saudi aid been discussed with his highness the crown prince?

[Badran] In light of our distinguished bilateral relations, bilateral issues were discussed. There has been positive understanding on the part of his highness the crown prince.

Further on Efforts To Free Remaining Hostages

Al-Musawi Threatens Execution

TA0805173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of one of Hizballah's factions [title as heard] in Lebanon, has warned Western hostages will be executed if the Americans do not provide information on the whereabouts of four Iranians who were at one time taken prisoner by Christian militiamen in Beirut.

In a telephone interview from his headquarters at Baalbek, Al- Musawi cautioned that Washington's refusal would hinder the chances of more hostages being released.

No Release Before 'Goodwill'

NC0805182090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] In an interview, Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement in Lebanon, has called on the kidnappers of the 16 Western hostages not to release their hostages before the United States makes a goodwill gesture in response to the release of the two U.S. hostages. He said: I ask the kidnappers not to show any more goodwill, because this will harm the interests of the Muslims, the deprived, and the oppressed.

Al-Musawi said: The kidnappers must prove to the United States and the Zionist entity that the Muslims are capable of standing up to them. He stressed that carrying on the struggle is the only way to repel the U.S. and Zionist attacks.

Al-Musawi described the U.S. pressure on the Zionist entity to release hundreds of Arab prisoners as mere deception. He stressed that the United States and the Zionist entity continue to adopt a course based on fighting Islam.

Iranian Charge Comments

NC0905072090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpts] Mohammad Jauad Zamanian, charge d'affaires at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut, has said the Islamic Republic is doing its best to help the Muslim people in Lebanon overcome their problems. [passage omitted]

In an interview with our radio, he noted Iran has exerted immense efforts to solve the Iqlim al-Tuffah problem, and that in its view, the solution lies in implementing the Damascus accord, which was fully sponsored by Iran and Syria. He voiced his hope for a speedy solution to this problem.

Referring to the hostage issue, he said the release of the two American hostages was due to Iranian influence and Syrian assistance. In any case, he said, it was not a bid to make an overture to Washington. He added that, had America's intentions been good, it would have hurried to pressure the Zionist entity and the Phalangist forces to release the Muslim Lebanese and Palestinians they hold. He asserted there is information that the four Iranian diplomats, whom the Phalangist forces kidnapped in 1982, are still alive. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi, al-Huss Leave for Damascus 9 May

NC0905072490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss left for Damascus this morning for talks with senior Syrian officials on the Lebanese situation.

'Awn Bans Boats From Entering 'Military Zone'

NC0905093590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In a statement it issued this morning, 'Awn's militia said it considers the area between al-Madfun and the [Beirut] port as a military zone. It is prohibited for any boat of any kind, regardless of its cargo or mission, to enter this zone, the statement said.

The statement warns international and local maritime transport companies and insurance companies against the use of any of the ports along the coast of the aforementioned area.

'Awn Warned Over Blockade

NC0905094990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 May 90

[Statement issued by the 14 February group; date not given]

[Text] Enough threats. As the usurpation of authority is no longer permissible, the usurpation of land and sea will not be permissible, either. Let us ask you, Michel 'Awn: What was the result of your threat to close the West Beirut ports, except the choking of East Beirut with a seven-month long blockade? What was the outcome of the bombardment during the liberation war except the destruction of East Beirut? What was the result of the bombardment during the abolition war except the destruction of what had escaped the liberation war bombardment?

Michel 'Awn, enough threats. We warn you the sea blockade and closure of crossings will backfire on you. You are only capable of uttering threats. You know our hand will reach you wherever you are and in any shelter you hide in.

Coast, Beirut Port Under Fire

NC0905095590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Kasrawan coast has been coming under heavy artillery bombardment since 1140 today. The Beirut port

area also is being subjected to intermittent bombardment from emplacements of 'Awn's gunmen.

In another development today, the command of 'Awn's gunmen issued a statement announcing the territorial waters between al-Madfun and Beirut port are a military zone, which no vessel, regardless of its type, cargo, or mission, is allowed to enter.

The command claimed that the aforementioned area has become an arena for acts of piracy, smuggling, and illegal trade, as well as for the procurement of arms and ammunition.

Lebanese Forces Issue Response

NC0905105490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In response to the statement released by the Moral Guidance Department of 'Awn's gunmen, the Fifth Branch of the General Staff of the Lebanese Forces has issued the following statement:
1. This threatening statement has been issued by an illegal authority that usurped power, and therefore, the statement has no legal force or justification.
2. This threatening statement is an open and explicit expression of the intent of its authors to carry on the systematic process of destruction that began three months ago. The statement clearly explains the real reasons for the flare-up in the past two days.
3. This statement coincides with the closure of land and sea crossings, which aim to impose a land and sea blockade on the free areas to starve out the remaining people in these areas.
4. The Lebanese people have become accustomed to General 'Awn's hollow threats, such as his threat to close al-Jiyah port and the illegal ports, as well as his threats to break heads and upset equations, and his latest threat to close the Lebanese coast. It is regrettable that the citizen has been the one to pay the price for his hollow threats, which have brought nothing but subversion, destruction, and killing.
5. The Lebanese Forces General Staff announces that all legal ports in the eastern areas are operating normally.
6. The Lebanese Forces General Staff warns it will take harsh measures against any party attempting to attack any civilian vessel or any legal port. We will not allow any blockade whatsoever on the free areas, at any price.

11 Killed, 20 Injured in 8 May Fighting in East

NC0905055590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] A guarded calm prevails in the eastern area, interrupted by occasional bursts of machine gun and rocket fire. This lull follows an outbreak of violence yesterday afternoon which lasted until a little after 2100, affecting al-Matn, Kasrawan, and East Beirut areas. The artillery duel did not spare West Beirut, in which the Ra's al-Nab', al-Nuwayrah, al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Unesco, and Spinneys neighborhoods came under shellfire.

Afterward, a cease-fire was announced and the bombardment abated gradually. It was reported these clashes left 11 dead and more than 20 injured, including five children. The reports added Colonel Francois Zayn, commander of the 'Awn group's military academy, was among the dead, in addition to two other officers who were killed inside the academy. Five military personnel of 'Awn's group and eight civilians were injured in Sinn al-Fil.

Government, Media Reaction To Summit Reported

Arab League Meeting Requested

JN0805165190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The Syrian Arab Republic has requested an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League Council at foreign minister level to hold consultations on the venue and date of the extraordinary Arab summit. Arab League sources in Tunis said the League's secretariat received a memorandum to this effect from the Syrian Foreign Ministry today. According to the sources, the memorandum asked that the proposed Arab foreign ministers meeting agree on the topics and agenda and prepare studies and recommendations to be forwarded to the upcoming summit. The sources added that the secretariat distributed the memorandum to the Arab League member states.

Paper on 'Extemporaneous' Call

JN0905073190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "The Arab Summit and Guaranteeing its Success," the newspaper AL-BA'TH stresses that the extemporaneous call for holding an Arab summit will lead to confusion among Arab ranks that should be unified in the face of all threats to our nation. As leader al-Asad said: If this was unintentional then it is wrong, and if it was intentional then it is far beyond wrong. A call for the summit should be accompanied by conditions that cannot be ignored or disregarded.

AL-BA'TH affirms that preparation for the summit is one of the prerequisites for its success. AL-BA'TH asks: Has this extemporaneous call been preceded by preparations and consultations to reach agreement on the time, venue, agenda, and the chances of success for an ordinary or extraordinary Arab summit? AL-BA'TH answers: Certainly, nothing of this kind has happened. The extemporaneous call was made by a capital whose rulers are still bragging and making irresponsible statements that serve only their personal interests. Nothing that Syria has done or is doing has any connection with personal interests.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We in Syria want a summit that serves the nation's interests, not personal interests. We are the side most concerned about unifying Arab ranks and opinion so that effective Arab solidarity can rise to the level of pan-Arab responsibility in order to confront threats to our nation beginning with the Lebanese issue and ending with Jewish emigration and the separate solutions to the Palestine question.

Commentary Warns of 'Debasement'

JN0805172890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When an Arab party insists, for a hidden reason, on monopolizing the process of fixing the date, place, and agenda of an Arab summit—on which the nation is pinning great hopes for confronting impending dangers—any citizen in any Arab country might ask: Can such a summit, held without any advance collective consultations on matters related to it, be successful in confronting the dangers to this nation? The Arab citizen is appalled at the rush to fix the date and venue of the summit without sufficient consultations and arrangements, because a summit with such great hopes pinned on it, and with topics of such importance and seriousness to be discussed, requires advance preparations, deliberations, arrangements, and consultations so that the results will match our hopes and aspirations.

This holds true if the summit is being sought in order to draw up a clear Arab strategy, based on effective Arab solidarity, to confront the growing Zionist danger and to harness international changes to the benefit of the Arab cause. But if the motives behind a certain Arab party's insistence on this haste and improvisation are concealing hidden personal intentions and exploiting the tremendous Arab desire for a meeting of the leaders of the nation to discuss how to avert danger, foil hostile schemes, and ward off intrigues, would it not be better not to hold such a summit? Because, such a summit would bring the Arab citizen far greater frustration and disappointment than not holding it would.

Syria, as the first to call for Arab alertness and vigilance and for the combination of Arab efforts in a framework of effective and strong solidarity and as one in the forefront of those calling for an Arab summit to coordinate Arab efforts and close Arab ranks in the interest of pan-Arab aspirations and goals and to protect its interests and rights, believes that the summit, as an institution, still has credibility among the Arab masses. It is therefore unacceptable to drag it down to the level of the interest of a certain leader or individual. Any such debasement will not only harm Arab interests, but will also rob the summit institution of the trust and respect it enjoys in the hearts of the Arab masses as an object of hope. Such a loss will certainly cause these masses disappointment, despair, frustration, pessimism, and loss of hope.

Numerous Arab countries, including Syria, have been exposed to threats and hostile measures. They have not tried, however, to exploit the summit conference to serve themselves or to use crooked methods to take advantage of these conferences. The summit, as leader al-Asad said in his recent meeting with Egyptian reporters, should serve pan-Arab interests and aspirations, and not this or that individual.

Arab League's Klibi Seen Off by Foreign Minister

JN0805122490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus this morning following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the general commissioner of the Israel Boycott Office in Damascus.

Lebanese President, Prime Minister Arrive

JN0905094390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Soviet Power Minister Conducts Expanded Meeting

JN0805202390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 8 May (SANA)—Yuriy Semenov, USSR minister of power and electrification, and his delegation currently visiting Syria have continued their meetings with senior Syrian specialists. The visiting minister met today with Matanyus Habib, minister of oil and mineral wealth, and Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs. He reviewed current cooperation with them and ways to promote it in every area, especially in oil and phosphates.

The Soviet minister and his delegation held an expanded meeting with the Syrian side and members of the Syrian-Soviet subcommittee for oil and phosphate affairs, senior Syrian oil specialists and technicians, and USSR Embassy staff in Damascus.

The conferees discussed the results of the subcommittees' meetings in preparation for reaching a joint agreement in oil projects, the development of Syrian oil fields, and phosphate extraction and processing.

Afghanistan

New Cabinet To Be 'Independent' of PDPA

BK0805153390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 8 (AFP)—Afghanistan's new cabinet to be formed by Prime Minister-designate Fazl Haq Khaliqyar will be independent of President Najibullah's ruling party, the editor-in-chief of the party organ said here Tuesday [8 May].

The ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) will have a "reduced" role in the new cabinet, said Hamid Rogh, head of the daily PAYAM, or Message, newspaper. "The PDPA's share in the cabinet will be reduced to the extent that it will be independent from the party," Mr. Rogh said in an interview. Officials here have said the new cabinet was to be set up within a week to two weeks. Mr. Rogh said it was clear to the PDPA that it alone could not resolve Afghanistan's dragging civil war and forming a cabinet with non-party men might clear the way for a coalition government in the future.

He said the Home, Finance and Foreign Affairs Ministries would be reorganised shortly while reshaping the Defence Ministry would take longer because of the continuing war. He did not elaborate on the revamping of the Defence Ministry.

There are pressures within the PDPA against radical reforms which means that party men will have to give up their privileges, Mr. Rogh said. He said an "elitist section" of the party had benefited from the continuation of war and was now resisting change. However, he added that the dissidents were not strong enough to block the reforms, which included the PDPA shedding its monopoly on power.

Diplomats and officials here have said the last non-party prime minister in Kabul, Hasan Sharq, had been virtually unable to run the government because party members under and around him refused to recognize his authority. Mr. Sharq, who had been critical of the party and in interviews called it unpopular, was dropped after the Soviet troop withdrawal in February 1989 and the party presence in the cabinet was strengthened.

Mr. Rogh reiterated Tuesday that Mr. Najibullah was now pressing ahead with "perestroyka," taking into consideration a better understanding between the two superpowers on the Afghan issue.

Mr. Najibullah Monday [7 May] appointed Mr. Khaliqyar, a former province governor, surprising even some of his closest aides because although his name had been suggested, he is bedridden after being seriously wounded. Mr. Khaliqyar is a non-party man and is regarded here as a respected politician and proven economist.

The government also lifted a state of emergency Thursday [3 May], 17 days ahead of schedule, and has called a "Loya Jerga", or grand national assembly before the superpower summit on May 30. Diplomats here said the moves were clearly maneuvers designed to influence the upcoming superpower summit, which is expected to discuss the Afghan conflict which has claimed over a million lives in the past 12 years.

Party Proposes Polls Under 'Afghan Commission'

BK0705122990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 May 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, May 6—Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan (HEA) has proposed general elections in Afghanistan on the pattern of Konarha elections under the supervision of an authorised Afghan Commission comprising the Field Commanders and the local administration in each area where they will create a conducive atmosphere for those elections. It said that the termination of Najib's regime is a pre-requisite for holding these elections.

This was stated in an official communique issue here Sunday [6 May] by the Political Affairs Department of HEA (Hekmatyar), reports AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA).

The communique said that the Afghan people will not allow the treacherous clique of Najib to take part in these elections or the government based in a rented house in Peshawar that has already run out of its mandate to supervise these elections. The communique further said that Mujahidin will accept only those elections which are held without foreign interference. HEA contended that the Afghan Jihad [holy war] is faced with dangerous conspiracies of the superpowers and now the enemies of Islam are trying to help the establishment of a weak coalition government which is made up of the lackeys of USSR and USA. It said that Mujahidin will foil the conspiracies of those forces which are inimical to Islam and the establishment of Islam government in Afghanistan.

The communique dubbed USSR as the sponsor of Dr. Najib and USA that of the defuct AIG [Afghan Interim Government] and alleged that they want to form a joint administration by amalgamating these two entities under the supervision of UNO [United Nations Organization] to hold elections of their own choice in which the treacherous band of Najib will also be participating. As a matter of fact, neither such governments which are the favourites of the aliens nor the elections held for supervised by them are acceptable to our people. [sentence as published]

The communique further alleged that under this new formula the vested quarters are now bent upon the character assassination of those Mujahidin forces who played effective role in their fight against the Soviet forces. Moreover, the big powers have realised that in the presence of strong and organised Jihad forces the US and the USSR cannot implement their designs in Afghanistan and need sometime to defame such Jihad organisations and isolate them within their nation and the whole world at large.

Under a series of conspiracies the conspiring forces will prepare the ground for their envisaged political solution

and the moment this end is achieved, the two superpowers will have an opportunity to impose a solution of their own choice on the Afghan people.

*Mujahidin Reportedly Agree To Talk to Regime

90AS0044A London KEYHAN in Persian 3 May 90 p 1

[Text] Last week Dr. Najibullah, president of the communist government of Kabul, spoke by telephone with Mohammad Zahir Shah, former king of Afghanistan, as well as with Dr. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, the president of the Mujahidin interim government, in order to find a peaceful solution to the civil war in Afghanistan. Afghan Mujahidin sources report that Dr. Najibullah has agreed to the Soviet proposal to conduct national elections in Afghanistan under the supervision of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference.

At the same time in Peshawar Dr. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi announced for the first time that a special committee of representatives of the seven mujahidin groups will be formed to negotiate with the communist regime in Kabul to study with Dr. Najibullah ways to form a transitional government to hold elections in Afghanistan.

This is the first time the Afghan mujahidin groups have been willing to talk with the Kabul communist regime. Dr. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi expressed the hope that these talks would produce a political solution before the foreign ministers of American and the Soviet Union meet from 26 to 29 May in Moscow.

Dr. Sibghatullah Mojaddedi also said that Dr. Najibullah has expressed his willingness to give up power and transfer it to a government made up of moderate mujahidin. He emphasized that the mujahidin are prepared to issue a general amnesty as soon as they take power.

Direct contacts between the Afghan mujahidin and the Kabul communist regime have become easy following the aborted coup d'etat carried out by general Shahnawaz Tanai and Gulbuddin Hikmatyar. After the disclosure of this coup d'etat, Dr. Najibullah expressed his interest in contacts with moderate mujahidin, and the conditions for arriving at a mutual understanding have been created.

The aforementioned coup was planned with agreement between two extremist groups on two sides, meaning the fundamentalist group of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and the extremist communist group within the Kabul regime, and it was defeated. After the failed coup and the flight of General Tanai to Pakistan, other Afghan mujahidin groups announced that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had proposed the holding of national elections in Afghanistan under the supervision of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference in his last meeting with American Secretary of State James Baker in Helsinki.

It was Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's intention, had his coup succeeded, to take power alone in Kabul and not to include the other Afghan mujahidin groups.

Alleged Pakistan Policy Document Revealed

LD0805212590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpts] As our esteemed compatriots are aware, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan in Dalw 1368 [month beginning 21 January 1990] published in the mass media a document that demonstrated the objectives and expansionist plans of the Pakistani authorities regarding Afghanistan and the links of the chieftains of the Alliance of Seven, based in Peshawar, to the Pakistani military intelligence service. [passage omitted]

We continue to reveal the facts regarding the expansionist objectives of the military authorities of Pakistan against the Republic of Afghanistan, and the links of the Alliance of Seven chieftains stationed in Peshawar with the military intelligence service of Pakistan, by publishing another document which has fallen into the hands of the Afghan authorities, for the information of our dear compatriots.

The document is dated 22 February 1989, written exactly one year after the attack on Jalalabad and 12 days prior to the abortive coup of Gulbuddin and Shahnawaz.

This document notes that the policy of the Pakistan Government against the Republic of Afghanistan is based on three aggressive factors:

1. The Pakistani authorities are trying to capture one of the important cities of Afghanistan, for example Jalalabad, by direct intervention and then to install a government there over which the Pakistani authorities have complete control.

2. In addition to military invasion and penetration of the military circles of Afghanistan Pakistan wants to wage an economic blockade against the Republic of Afghanistan that, in view of the Pakistani authorities, will expedite the toppling of the Afghan Government.

3. In achieving these expansionist objectives Pakistan intends to form an Afghanistan-Pakistan confederation and consequently annex the territory of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The contents of the document that is going to be read now is in complete conformity with the content of the documents, signed by General Hamid Gol and addressed to Ziaul Haq, and demonstrate the very militarist policy of the Ziaul Haq regime against Afghanistan. Here is the text of the document:

Confidential
General Directorate of Military Intelligence Service, Islamabad
Number: 4120 I6G II, dated 22 February 1989
Military Defense Attache of Pakistan Embassy
Subject: Priority and Strategy

1. The withdrawal of Russian troops creates new conditions for the solution of the Afghan issue. After the collapse of the Kabul regime the economic and political conditions of the country will be extremely serious. No Islamic government will be able to rule the country without a vast foreign assistance. We deeply believe that Pakistan is the only accomplice and even advocate of Afghanistan through which foreign aid is rendered.

2. Our policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan is based on three factors:

a. the formation of a new government from the outset to operate on Afghan territory of Afghanistan. Its first duty will be to gain recongnition, as far as possible, by a large number of countries and primarily the Islamic countries. In this government we must secure the minimum pro-Iran elements.

The other duty will be the liberation of one of the major cities, for example, Jalalabad where the new government will be installed and from where it will rule the country.

The mujahidin will be needing all possible military assistance. The military advisers must assist them in the creation of something close to a regular army. The intervention and participation of Pakistan is required to control the situation and to safeguard our national interests.

b. The collapse of the Kabul regime could take place within two days. This must be achieved by a siege of Kabul and then direct invasion or by a total economic blockade which brings about the fall of the Kabul regime. For this purpose we must strive to penetrate the military circles of Kabul. It is very important to consolidate our influence in the new government and to ensure that our trustworthy men obtain places in this government. It is very important to create conditions in which the normal activities of government can become possible only in the presence of our advisers.

The restoration of peace and the start of reconstruction work in the country will be a long and fearful process. We have at our disposal means by which we not only can control this process but we can secure future gradual annexation to our economic and political structure in such a way that results in close unity between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This idea will attract the support of the military and all the people, and for this purpose wise propaganda actions are required so that public opinion in Pakistan and in the world becomes accustomed to it.

c. The situation is still critical and requires care. Your further detailed information will be much appreciated and must be dispatched to us as soon as possible.

[Signed] On behalf of information director general: Colonel (Mohammad Irshad Choudari)

Here our dear compatriots will judge what wicked and expansionist objectives are being pursued against our country by Pakistan's militarists in collaboration with the chieftains of the Seven Alliance based in Peshawar.

The noble people of Afghanistan and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan who foil all conspiracies by the enemies of the homeland as the earnest guardian of the homeland and high interests of the people of Afghanistan can be proud, and they have given a crushing reply to the enemies.

The Afghan people have proved to the world that not only did they confront their enemies to a shameful defeat in Jalalabad, Qandahar and Khowst but they courageously kept open the country's communication lines despite the enemy's efforts. The last hope of the Pakistani authorities and their supporters was also dispelled by the shameful defeat of the treacherous conspiracy of of the Shahnawaz-Gulbuddin coup.

The enemies of the Afghan people must know that the free-born Afghan people will be able to defeat in the future too every conspiracy and intrigue of the enemies.

USSR Economic Delegation Arrives in Kabul

LD0805033590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] A joint delegation of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and the permanent commission of economic and technical cooperation between the governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union arrived today in Kabul to assess Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects. The delegation was received at Kabul International Airport by Minister of Planning Sultan Husayn and (Kopervik), the trade representative for the Soviet Union in Kabul. Talks between the delegation and authoritative representatives of the ministries and administrations of the Republic of Afghanistan are to begin.

Chief Justice, Delegation Return From PRC

LD0805222790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpt] Afghanistan's judicial delegation led by Nezamuddin Tahzib, chief justice of the Republic of Afghanistan, returned home today after participating in 14th conference of peace through law center, held in Beijing. The delegation took an active part in the conference and met with his excellency Li Peng, the prime minister, His Excellency Ren Jianxin, president of the Supreme People's Court, and a number of senior legal personalities of that country. During the meeting with the president of the PRC Supreme People's Court some agreements on the establishment of legal and scientific relations between the Supreme Court of the Republic of Afghanistan and the PRC Supreme People's Court were concluded. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Commends State Security Ministry

LD0805074990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 6, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the republic and supreme commander of the

Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] today received the employees of the central and provincial organs of the Ministry of State Security which had earlier participated in the methodic conference of that ministry, reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

At the beginning, Full General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security briefly talked on the forthcoming duties of said employees.

Later on, President Najibullah in his speech specified the grave duties and responsibilities of the Ministry of State Security for the restoration of a nation-wide peace, deepening and complete realization of the policy of national reconciliation, strengthening of democracy and the full observance of legality. He also lauded the performance of the organs of the Ministry of State Security in conformity with the spirit of constitution of the country and national interests under the conditions of coalition and political pluralism.

President Najibullah awarded medals and orders of the RA to a number of the employees of the Ministry of State Security.

Meets Provincial Elders, Clergy

LD0805203890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received elders and ulema, clergy, and representatives of the Abdor Rahimzai, Stanakzai, Momand, Ahmadzai, Tajik, and Khawaj tribes of the districts of Mohammd Agha, Kolngar, and central Logar Province this afternoon.

BAKHTAR reports that the meeting began with the recitation of some verses of Koran. Then esteemed Najibullah spoke to them about the military-political situation in the country and the participation of all people of Afghanistan in the implementation of national reconciliation, the unity of Afghans, the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan, and also changes in the country's constitution.

Some elders and clergy on behalf of the others expressed the preparedness of the aforementioned tribes to participate in securing general peace in the country and the solidarity of the people of Logar with the complete implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

At the end of the meeting a turban was presented to esteemed Najibullah as a present from the people of Logar. The participants prayed for the quick restoration of peace in the country.

Missiles Fired on Kabul: 1 Killed, 2 Wounded

LD0705162290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] This morning the extremists supported by Pakistan fired two surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas of Kabul city, as a result of which one of our compatriots was martyred and two others were wounded.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that the injured were transported to hospitals immediately and were taken in for intensive medical treatment.

Financial damage was also inflicted on our compatriots as a result of the firing of these missiles.

Provincial Security Situation Reported 7 May

LD0805035190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] A number of Nangarhar garrison units and companies that are included in the mopping-up operations in the areas of Kama, Shewa, and alongside the [word indistinct] west of Kama bridge, as well as the regions of Abdul Khalil and Ganberi Dasht, have taken position in favorable trenches and lines by pushing back the enemy from key regions.

Quoting an authoritative source, the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that in the last five days, armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have been under heavy pressure by the units and companies, and continuously retreat from their positions. The warmongers have fired heavy weapons sporadically during the last five days on a number of security posts and on a number of places in the city.

In retaliation for these criminal actions, their resistance points were subjected to air and artillery attacks. As a result of these attacks and successful combat operations, 180 enemies were ousted from the combat rank. And their two BM-1 systems, 10 mortars, 15 rocket launchers, and a vehicle loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

The source adds that as a result of mopping-up operations carried out by the units and companies in the last five days west and east of Kama bridge, in the region of the Abdul Khalil mountain, Ganberi Dasht, and other regions from where the enemy has escaped, 520 recoilless gun shells, 704 mortar shells, 212 antitank shells, 226 rocket launcher shells, 883 mortar warheads [as heard], 440 tents, 13 SAKR-20's thousands of light weapons rounds, and three vehicles loaded with various types of weapons were seized. The units and companies carry out their patriotic duties with high morale and combat capability. They are engaged in consolidation and fortification of new positions and have exerted pressure on the enemy.

As a result of these combat operations by the forces, the morale of the warmongering joint forces has become very low. As a result of fire by the warmongers supported by Pakistan, four armed forces personnel were martyred and seven were wounded. And a number of houses and shops belonging to our compatriots were destroyed. The source adds that the units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Khowst major district remained in their defensive positions and are ready to foil any type of possible attack by the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis, with high combat readiness and spirit. A number of the units and companies foiled the limited attacks by the extremists which began on 2 April [date as heard] on a number of the security posts, and are stationed in a proper position.

Six Killed in Rocket Attack on Kabul 8 May

LD0805164890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May

[Text] Pakistan-backed extremists committed a shocking and unforgivable crime against our faithful compatriots by firing five American [as heard] SAKR ground-to-ground rockets at the residential areas of Kabul today. As a result of the landing of the rockets six of our compatriots including children became martyrs and 13 others sustained injuries. The injured were immediately taken to the hospital and were given intensive treatment and care. Today's rockets were fired from the west and south-west directions at residential areas of Kabul.

Kabul Garrison Attacks Rebel Positions 8 May

LD0805175990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Units and companies of Kabul garrison general command, in an attempt to prevent the terrorist actions of Pakistani-linked extremists, have launched attacks on their trenches in the environs of Kabul Province during the last three days. The BAKHTAR INTERNATIONAL AGENCY military section reported that as a result of the assaults, 32 enemies of the homeland and people were crushed and 58 were wounded. Along with assorted weapons and a quantity of ammunition, one unit for launching U.S. [as heard] SAKR type missiles was destroyed.

Bangladesh

Indian Court Ruling on Disputed Corridor Welcomed

BK0605134490 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 May 90

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed its happiness with the judgment given by the Indian Supreme Court on Tin Bigha [corridor in India]. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka on Sunday [6 May] that this is a right step toward the better understanding between the two countries. The Indian Supreme Court in a judgment has held that the right of the passage to Bangladesh over the Indian territory of Tin Bigha under bilateral agreement of 1974 and 1982 does not amount to giving of the territory. The spokesman said now that the legal obstacle has been removed, we hope that the Tin Bigha corridor will be handed over to Bangladesh at an early date, especially after the finding of the Indian Supreme Court that no acquisition of private land is involved.

India

'Powerful Bombs' Explode in Amritsar Bus Stations

BK0905044490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 9 (AFP)—Two powerful bombs exploded in a bus station Wednesday [9 May] in Punjab's Sikh holy city of Amritsar, killing "several people", the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

No further details were immediately available.

Amritsar city houses the Golden Temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine. Sikh militants are campaigning violently in Punjab to set up an independent homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure).

Three Killed in Blasts

BK0905094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, at least three people were killed and 25 injured in powerful bomb blasts in two State Roadways buses in Amritsar this afternoon. Agency reports say that the explosions caused fire at the busstand in the city. Fire brigades and ambulances have rushed to the site. The area has been cordoned off.

Nine Killed in Separate Incidents in Punjab

BK0805145090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons, including four terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last night.

In Amritsar, one of the two terrorists, who robbed a farmer over 1 lakh rupees in (Chiratta) yesterday afternoon, was later killed in an encounter with a chasing police party near Court Road.

Time Bomb Defused at Delhi Train Station

BK0905072090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] A major tragedy was averted early this morning when a very powerful time bomb was detected and defused promptly at the New Delhi railway station. Large number of passengers were waiting for the Neelanchal and Shan-i-Punjab express trains at that time. According to police sources, the bomb was defused just four minutes before its set time for explosion. The bomb, kept in a thermos flask, was set to blast at 0215 [2045 GMT].

Srinagar Curfew Relaxed; 3 'Militants' Killed

BK0905033690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew in Srinagar City is being relaxed for 10 hours from 0800 this morning. No untoward incident has been reported since yesterday.

Meanwhile, efforts are on to trace Mrs. K.L. Ganju, who was kidnapped in Sopor by the militants, along with her husband, on Saturday [5 May] last. The body of her husband was recovered on Monday [7 May] from River Jhelum in Baramula District.

Security forces yesterday killed three militants after laying an ambush when they were trying to sneak into Kashmir from across the border. Sixteen subversives, including one top militant, were arrested from different parts of the state yesterday.

Newspaper Views 'Brinkmanship' Over Kashmir

BK0505140090 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 90 p 13

[Article by Bhabani Sen Gupta: "War Clouds Recede, But ..."]

[Text] Pakistani brinkmanship over Kashmir has stopped well short of the point of no return; India's response has been positive. War clouds have therefore receded somewhat. But the danger of war in or over Kashmir still remains. Both sides have moved their armies close to the border; in Pakistan, the reservists have been called up and all military leave has been cancelled. Military personnel on both sides of the border have been put on the red alert.

On the positive side, however, there is no war psychosis in either country; among both peoples there is strong hope that the politicians will somehow avert war at the last moment. More important than anything else, the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan have met in New York; their meetings this time have not been nearly as frosty as were their encounters in Delhi about a month before.

They did not discuss Kashmir, but they seem to have agreed that both sides must de-escalate the war of words and keep the track of diplomatic negotiations open so that the sub-commissions can meet and do their work for the joint India-Pakistan Commission to meet in the summer.

There will be a still more important India-Pakistan meeting at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit scheduled perhaps for July. Each SAARC summit has defused a bilateral crisis in South Asia; once Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto meet privately for a heart-to-heart talk, they may well hit a line of joint action that would turn the present grim crisis into a window of welcome opportunity. Similar things have happened in Soviet-US relations. The confrontation over Cuba led, paradoxically, to the first meeting between John F. Kennedy and Nikita S. Khrushchev which created the first incarnation of detente. It broke down later, of course, but it never died; detente had a second incarnation in the 70s and a third, hopefully a durable one, in the late 80s.

A parallel between Pakistan and India should not be too laboured. If the Simla meeting between Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto and Indira Gandhi in 1972 brought about the first detente, it froze after Ziaul Haq usurped power in 1977, to be mildly revived in the 80s under the deep shadow of the Afghan crisis, and rejuvenated somewhat in 1989 as a result of three meetings between Benazir Bhutto and Rajiv Gandhi in the short span of 12 months. The grim political situation in the Valley of Kashmir in 1990 predictably pushed the two countries to the brink of war. With wisdom coaxed out of past experience, the two governments have stepped back from the brink. The question is whether they can turn this terrible crisis into a detente that will not be easily shaken.

Not easily shaken because both countries now have a democratic system of government in which the voice of the people must ultimately prevail and great political decisions have to be taken with the people's consent. Indians may regret much that happens and is spoken in Pakistan, but they cannot afford not to take note of the fact that no arrests have been made in that country for well over a year for political dissent. The press is entirely free (which has manifested in two streams of public opinion, one urging "toughness" over Kashmir to the point of provoking war, the other urging restraint and pointing out that war will mean far greater risks for Pakistan than for India.

Pakistan's democratic politics has not yet settled down; the country has problems of domestic insurgencies just as much as has India. The wisest thing for them is not to try to take advantage of each other's domestic problems and indeed to get together to find the best ways to tackle ethno-political unrest which is the biggest problem facing all multinational political societies, a problem shared by a majority of South Asian nations as well as the USSR and China in a vast region of geographically contiguous states each open to the contagion blowing from one state to another.

The meeting of the two foreign ministers was brought about by quiet diplomacy undertaken separately and together in Moscow, Washington, Islamabad and Delhi.

It is now absolutely clear that the international community does not want Pakistan and India to go to war over Kashmir but to resolve the problem between themselves. The Simla Agreement is cited by most nations as the appropriate legitimate framework. For domestic political reasons Ms Bhutto seems to have thrashed the Simla accord and very mistakenly allowed herself to talk about a thousand years' war to get Kashmir. India, too, would seem to be reducing the importance of the Simla Agreement by insisting that it will not talk Kashmir with Pakistan. The Simla Agreement

asks the two countries to resolve all differences and problems between them through peaceful negotiations and specifies Kashmir to be one of the problems.

To his credit, Mr V.P. Singh has kept alive all through the crisis a two-track line for Pakistan. Toughness over Kashmir together with readiness to resume and carry forward diplomatic negotiations designed for an overall improvement of the bilateral relationship.

His warning that a Pakistani provocation to kindle even a "limited war" in Kashmir would inevitably lead to a total war in which India will put in all its resources to win went home to Pakistani decision-makers. They had known from the beginning that Kashmir is a no-win war terrain for Pakistan and that a dicey war with India will be playing with the highest imaginable stakes. Even Clausewitz who declared that "war is a continuation of policy by other means" warned that "war is a province of chance. In no other sphere of human activity must such a margin be left to this intruder. It increases the uncertainty of every circumstance and deranges the course of events."

A war with Pakistan will bruise India and inflict a hundred bleeding wounds on its body politic, but for Pakistan it will be far more costly, it may derange the entire course of events in the life of Pakistan of the last four decades. Whatever may be the feelings and sentiments of Pakistanis about Kashmir, they must reconcile to the reality that India will not let the Valley go out of the grip of its democracy and secularism and Pakistan cannot snatch it away from India's grip by war or sabotage. Perhaps in a distant future, when new generations have taken over the destinies of both nations, and a high threshold of peace and amity has been built between Pakistan and India, the two will be able to come to a friendly agreement about the political status of Kashmir. Until then they have to live with the status quo.

However, even around the status quo a security system can be built that will assure Pakistanis that India is firmly committed to the independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan and has absolutely no design to destabilise it.

This can be done by restoring the status quo ante in Siachin, and by building a high threshold of mutual confidence, committing each other not to intervene in one another's domestic affairs, not to take advantage of one another's domestic problems and to consult one another on common problems in a friendly spirit. India can invite Pakistan by asking for any manner of economic relations it wishes to have and not insist on strict reciprocity of trade items. India can make the same offer about technology, joint ventures and any other field of mutual interest. All India shall ask for its recognition of the status quo in Kashmir for an indefinite period, both countries encouraging Kashmiris living on either side of the line of actual control to have the best possible relationships with one another within the framework of the de jure political control situation [sentence as published].

If the two nations proceed on this kind of a track, the Pakistani factor will be removed from the problem that India will still face in Kashmir. The political insurgency will have to be resolved politically after the current "law and order" arm of the State has brought terrorism under control. Kashmirs will have to be assured of a free and fair election which they got only once in the last 40 years, in 1977. Whoever wins will rule, of course, within the Indian and Kashmiri constitutions. But if they—the people of Kashmir—want some greater substance of political autonomy, the Indian Government should be willing to discuss their demand with sympathy. Meanwhile, the anti-terrorist police operations must be tempered with as much consideration for human rights as may be possible in the prevailing hard circumstances.

Tamil Nadu Chief on Refugees, LTTE Camps

BK0805160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has said that the state government could accept the people of Sri Lanka of Indian origin only after Tamil refugees are sent back to Sri Lanka. He also denied the operation of any LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] camps in Tamil Nadu. Answering a point of order in the state assembly today, Mr. Karunanidhi said those operating armed camps in the state had been arrested.

Narcotics Cultivation on Rise in Northeast

BK0805113090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0425 GMT 8 May 90

[By Shantanu Ray]

[Text] Agartala, India, May 8 (AFP)—Tribal chieftains in India's remote northeastern states bordering Burma and Bangladesh are growing increasing amounts of illegal opium to smuggle to international markets, narcotics officers here say. The officers say the lure of high profits and inadequate surveillance by a thinly stretched narcotics squad result in the production of tons of opium and mushrooming heroin refineries.

Indian traffickers receive regular consignments from northeastern Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram states, which also serve as transhipment points for drugs from the so-called Golden Cresent and Golden Triangle countries for international markets.

Narcotics officials here say that during the past two years, transhipments through India from the Golden Crescent—which cuts across Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan—have slowed considerably due to stepped-up surveillance of northwestern borders by New Delhi and Islamabad. However, lack of prevention in Burma itself, lack of personnel and equipment on the densely jungled India-Burma border and in the tribal areas has helped the drug trade prosper.

The Golden Triangle—encompassing areas of Thailand, Laos and Burma—now has spilled across the border not only with increased transhipments, but rising production in India's northeast.

"If you would ask me to name the countries forming the Golden Triangle, I would include the (Indian) northeastern states because of their steady supply to the drug markets abroad," said Amitava Chatterjee of the eastern regional office of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India's drug enforcement agency. "Refining centers have mushroomed all over these states"

The increasing flow of heroin has turned almost every second youth in these states into an addict, Mr. Chatterjee said in Agartala, the capital of Tripura. He estimated the annual average output of heroin in the region at 3,000 to 3,500 kilograms (6,600 to 7,700 pounds).

Heroin fetches about 250,000 rupees (14,700 dollars) a kilo (2.2 lb) in India, and sells for at least 30 times that amount in markets in Europe and the United States. Official estimates put seizures in 1988-89 at 3,029 kilos (6,663 lb), including transhipped drugs.

Mr. Chatterjee also says the drug barons, many of whom grow their illegal crops alongside legal opium crops [as received] to avoid detection, use their profits to manipulate institutions in what are relatively inaccessible and underdeveloped areas, undermining the authority of the state governments.

Indian Home Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, during a recent visit to northeastern Assam state, announced that the government would start introducing more development programs, in part to divert people from poppy cultivation, but the announced measures have yet to be followed through.

The NCB's regional director (eastern zone), J.S.R. Khating, says the unstable political situation in neighbouring Burma has also boosted the drug trade in India's northeast.

Burmese raids on drug dealers in villages bordering India have all but stopped, he said.

"We are required to look after 11 states, but have just 10 officers and 50 subordinates, with a ration of less than one officer per state," he said in an interview.

The chief ministers of the northeastern states petitioned the central government in New Delhi early this year for an increase in NCB staff and updated laboratory equipment, but again no steps have yet been taken, NCB officers say.

Government officials also say "sizeable" amounts of drug money is diverted to tribal secessionist groups including the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Manipur.

Joint Operation Foils International Drug Cartel

BK0805123890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] A top international drug syndicate operating in Canada and India has been busted with the arrest of nine persons. Six persons were arrested in Canada and three in India in an operation jointly carried out by the Delhi zone unit of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The additional director general of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Mr. G.S. Thampi, told our correspondent that a consignment of about 200 kg of hashish from Varanasi and 15 kg of cocaine from Venezuela worth 7 crore rupees were seized in Toronto, Canada by the police.

Iran

Editorial Calls for 'Appropriate Response'

NC0805073090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Ball Now in the Court of Western Countries"]

[Text] By releasing a second American hostage, Lebanese Muslim groups proved their goodwill to U.S. and the Western countries. Release of two American hostages without any pre-conditions and solely for humanitarian and Islamic causes was an extreme gesture of goodwill and self-sacrifice by Lebanese Muslim groups.

This important and major step showed that Lebanese Muslim groups are fully prepared for the resolution of the hostage crisis in the shortest possible time. They proved this readiness in practice.

From the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which put in months of hard effort, something miraculous has happened.

The U.S. reaction after the release of the first U.S. hostage was not likeable and very unexpected. The U.S. House of Representatives in an ugly move declared Jerusalem as Israel's capital!! President Bush declared he will show no goodwill until the release of all the hostages!! Pro-Israeli and pro-Western groups released only four Lebanese Muslims from the hundreds of hostages they hold!!

Such moves were distinctly hostile and also insufficient for creation of a serious humanitarian move. Moreover, the barbaric attacks of the occupier regime of Israel increased in the past week after the release of the first hostage.

These actions in response to the Lebanese Muslim groups' humanitarian move showed that the U.S. and other Western countries are not seriously determined to solve the hostage issue.

With respect to these actions, the Lebanese Muslim groups were seriously doubtful about releasing a second hostage, thus endangering the entire effort of the Islamic Republic.

In order to pave the way for the release of all the hostages and to give the U.S. and the West a second opportunity so that they can give an appropriate response and show mutual goodwill, the Islamic Republic insisted the Muslim Lebanese groups to release a second hostage.

Fortunately with the unconditional release of a second hostage the extreme goodwill of the Lebanese Muslim

groups and the Islamic Republic of Iran was proved to the world. Now the ball is in the court of the U.S. and the Western countries.

Through a mutual show of good will they can pressure Israel and pro-Western groups to release Lebanese prisoners and hostages, thus giving fresh life to the move started by the Islamic Republic and causing the release of hostages to continue.

The Islamic Republic used its maximum power and credibility for the release of the hostages. Naturally, without an appropriate response from the West, there is no chance for the continuation of Iranian mediation and requests. Release of only four Lebanese from among hundreds of hostages and prisoners is nothing. It would be appropriate if as the next step as significant number of hostages including a few Iranian hostages and Shaykh 'Ubayd be released, so that we can celebrate the year 1990 as the end of the hostage crisis.

Al-Musawi Interview on Hostages in Lebanon Cited

LD0805174590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] According to REUTER, Husayn al-Musawi, a high-ranking official of the Lebanese Hizballah, has said in a radio interview: As a result of the negative stance adopted by the United States, the issue of the hostages has been turned into a complicated problem and we will probably not witness the solving of the hostages problem in Lebanon during the current year.

He added: If Washington puts pressure on the Zionist regime to free the Muslim Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners, there will be an opening on the hostage problem.

In other developments, according to an AFP report, the U.S. President has announced that his country has obtained some information on the fate of the four Iranian hostages—three diplomats and one journalist—who have disappeared in Lebanon since 1982.

Ahmad Khomeyni Espouses 'Resolute Policies'

NC0705161390 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Yesterday afternoon Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Rasuli, representative of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] in the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, Mr. Akhundi, chairman of the Housing Foundation, and the vice chairmen of the foundation. During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Rasuli reported briefly on the activities of the foundation. Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then praised the velayat-e faqih's representative in the foundation for his work. He also praised the steps taken by the foundation to house the deprived and said: Today, the foundation can put its 10 years of experience to use in all fields, including the country's reconstruction, the economy, and especially housing.

He then recalled the imam's criticism of temporary and unsystematic approaches to cultural and social problems and said: Ten years of experience should have taught us how to deal with all problems, be they economic, social, cultural, or political. We should not deal with problems without a program. For example, sometimes the Islamic ummah protests violations of Islamic garb. Judicial, executive, and legislative officials then make speeches in response to these protests. Strong attacks are made against these violations, but the issue ends without a solution, and no specific program is suggested to solve this problem.

One day everyone suddenly turns against the radio and television and asks: Why are they not doing anything? The radio and television propagate Western thoughts and air trite films. Everyone agrees. Speeches are made and one article after another is published. But is this the way to go about things? Or should we try to find the root of the problem?

He added: The officials of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI] should be asked to organize radio and television discussions to answer questions on why such films are shown and repeated. This will enable the people to see what difficulties the VVIRI is facing and express their views or ask for better programs. A vague and general attack cannot solve anything.

He also stated: Recently the topic of economic obstructionism has been discussed. Suddenly everyone is shouting: Hang the capitalist leeches; annihilate the hoarders because they are to blame for poverty; auction off their storerooms and then they may change. These are the analyses and speeches that are heard. But can the economic situation be improved by hanging a few people? Will lashings and threats improve the economic situation?

The problem is the absence of a calculated economic system. Production is the answer to demand, and the government should make a major decision on production—a decision that will not change with speeches and rhetoric—and formulate a policy which will not be harmed by the strong winds of politics or by different opinions.

Referring to the government's economic policies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: At least two to three years are needed for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policies to yield results. Without a strong policy and sufficient time, this tree will not bear any fruit. Executions, beatings, and lashings will not end violations of Islamic garb, nor will they make a poor man rich or a rich man poor. These measures will punish only a few of those who deserve to be punished for their filthy acts; and we all agree that they should be punished.

Today no Muslim accepts violations of Islamic garb in society. But how should such violations be dealt with so that a favorable result can be obtained? The goal is to

achieve a favorable result. Today there is no revolutionary Muslim who is not harmed by hoarding. But hoarding is the product of the economic illness of a society that has not been able to overcome all its economic problems. Today there is no Muslim who does not suffer when viewing an uneducational film. But we should not be mere spectators. In short, if we all join hands and work—with inner peace and without egoism or vanity—for our people, who are the very people whom our dear imam considered to be the guardians of our blessings, then we may be able to change their economic situation within the next three or four years.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also said that the consolidation of policies and programs to achieve resolute policies, and insistence on correct principles and policies in all fields, especially foreign policy, is the only key to success. He added: Planning is necessary in foreign policy too. Experts should sit down and think about what policies we should adopt, for example, toward the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms. Once we achieve a favorable result, then domestic and foreign policy problems should not divert us from the principled path that has been charted. This does not mean that we should give up the firm principles laid down by our dear imam, but that decisiveness in policy is the key to success in all fields.

Editorial on History of Relations With U.S.

NC0805083890 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Let Reason Prevail"]

[Text] For over 11 years the Iranian masses were told that the United States is Iran's enemy No. 1 and that normal ties with the Western superpower is only possible after it changes its attitude. Iran-U.S. encounters after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 proved to the world the notion that Washington relies on force to achieve its objectives. Though this reality had come into the open on several occasions in the mid-1900s, the declared U.S. strategy to crush the Muslim state met few parallels in recent memory.

A brief reference to America's open hostility towards sovereign states shows that trying to open a new chapter in our ties with that country will not serve any dignified purpose. The arrogant powers military intervention in Panama this year, attack on Libya in 1986, the 1983 invasion of Grenada, the Vietnam war (in 1967 the U.S. had nearly half a million troops in that impoverished country).

Added to this the 1965 U.S. Army occupation of the Dominican Republic. In 1954 the U.S. used military force to replace the government in Guatemala and in 1945 (WWI) threw atomic bombs on the Japanese only to impose its power and satanic authority. During this period of time millions of men, women and children lost their lives. The carnage in the said areas was probably to "defend democracy and freedom!!! [no closing quotes as published] Or was it to confront international terrorism, or protect the lives of American citizens? Whatever good work the Americans do they will not be able to wipe out this stain from the annals of human history.

One feels bitter and perplexed when the issue of holding talks with the U.S. comes up inside and outside the country. Only recently the State Department designated iran as an active supporter of state terrorism. Not surprisingly the other five countries were Syria, North Korea, South Yemen, Libya and Cuba—all progressive countries opposed to U.S. imperialism and wanting to live decent and honorable lives. Each of these states have deep-rooted animosity towards the great satan but have stressed that their peoples long for a normal relationship with their American counterparts.

Few are likely to be misled by statements to the effect that negotiations with the Americans can pave the way for a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere to rebuild post-war Iran. If this mentality prevails among statesmen the country's independence and survival will be seriously threatened. Notwithstanding the pragmatist and radical view vis-a-vis Tehran's wisdom to start talks with Washington or not, one cannot help but ask: What has the U.S. done to deserve an official session with the Islamic government?

To this date there is absolutely no visible change in America's Iran policy. There are millions of Iranians who still think that the superpower has done everything in its reach to hurt their country and if Iran was a small country like Grenada or Panama, the Pentagon would have tried several times over to land troops here and crush the revolution through military force. The fact that such an event has not occurred does not mean that Washington hopes to come to terms wit Tehran. The project is not feasible as was revealed in the deserts of Tabas in 1980.

The current international climate, especially as viewed from the economic angle, perhaps calls for and encourages cooperation and coordination among states. a great many Iran watchers claim Tehran is strapped for hard currency and needs Western technology to rebuild after eight years of war and destruction. Analysts commenting on Iran's economic difficulties have declared that the Islamic Republic is in desperate need of Western assistance if its reconstruction plans are to be implemented.

The chaos in Iran's economic sector and the lack of organization and planning to reconstruct the ravages of the Iraqi-imposed war have led most observers to believe that the country's stability will be seriously jeopardized if Iran's U.S. policy is not placed on a better footing. Experts point out that conditions inside Iran and the changing face of the world's geopolitical map will ultimately bring about "positive change" in Iran's foreign policy.

The basis for all these hopes and expectations was firstly the death of Imam Khomeyni last June and secondly, as the West likes to put it, the rise of pragmatists after the Iranian leadership decided to accept U.N. cease-fire Resolution 598 in July 1988.

What Iranologists and international observers intentionally disregard or ignore is the role Washington played, and continues to do so, in pushing Iran in the situation it is today. The iraqi war, sanctions in every known area Iran was vulnerable, non-stop propaganda to hurt Tehran's Islamic image, force, threats and direct military confrontation in the Persian Gulf in the last months of the war, and a whole other list of moves to force Iran to its knees, has rightfully made Iran's educated class strongly oppose any compromise with the arrogant power.

It is just too soon and immature to weigh the prospects of improvement in Iran-U.S. relations. Those who care for the country's welfare and prosperity, or independent survival for the matter, cannot help but demand that more attention be paid to dependence on international forces. If economic stability could be restored through friendly relations with the U.S., today the tens of staunchly pro-American states in Latin America and Asia should have improved their economic and social standing. But this has not happened.

Some of Washington's closest allies in the developing world jointly owe hundreds of billions of dollars to the industrialized countries and their economies have long passed the normal level.

Iran is a country rich in natural and human resources. What it needs is proper guidance, planning, organization, training and patriotism to exploit the potential of its forces. By the virtue of its evil actions the United States has established that it has no interest in nations that want to develop of their own accord. It has betrayed its arrogance, hegemony and hostility towards the free masses on more occasions than one. Iran should remain alert and look for respectable ways to solve its problems.

'Preposterous' U.S. Media Campaign Denounced

LD0505205790 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—The Western media is at it once again. Following rejection of the idea of talks and relations with the great Satan, by both the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, venomous fangs have been bared at Islamic Iran.

Only last week, the propaganda bullhorns of Western media, spearheaded by the U.S., were crying hoarse over the week on the so-called need of the Islamic Republic of Iran for resumption of ties with Washington.

However, following the Iranian officials' position on the issue, the dejected slanderers thought of a new play, and as ordered by the U.S. State Department, have resorted to a wild claim, alleging that it was Iran and not Iraq—as the criminal itself confessed—which used chemical weapons against the Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabjah.

The preposterous report appeared in the Thursday [3 May] issue of the WASHINGTON POST, which stooping to such low levels of yellow journalism, added that the U.S. knew Ba'athist Iraq does not use gases containing cyanide compounds, and is sure that it is Islamic Iran which uses such compounds.

Was it not in late March 1988 following the Iraqi chemical attacks on the Kurdish-populated town of Halabjah, that the Western media was compelled to publish the news of the genocide? Did not, as the whole world knows the truth, the Iraqi attacks snuffed out the lives of over 5,000 Iraqi Kurds, and maimed 7,000 others?

The attack was meant not only to stem the advance of the Muslim combatants who piece by piece were liberating northern Iraq, but also to terrorize a discontented oppressed people welcoming their Iranian liberators.

So shocking was the Iraqi brutality against its ethnic minority that even the U.S. Administration and European countries officially condemned the Ba'athist regime's genocide.

On 27 March 1988, the Voice of America quoting an Iraqi Kurd from Halabjah said that the chemical inferno unleashed by the Iraqi planes on Halabjah resulted in great casualties and losses on the town.

The report was followed by remarks of the then U.S. President Ronald Reagan who in the face of growing world public awareness had no other choice but to condemn Baghdad for its blatant use of chemical weapons.

Days later on April 15, 1988, BBC Radio announced that the European Parliament including the EEC members in a statement categorically condemned the Iraqi regime for using chemical weapons in its war against Iran.

Reminded of its own atomic crimes in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the U.S. Government was compelled to follow suit, and denounced the Iraqi use of lethal gases in Halabjah as a "great detriment to the Geneva convention", the news of which was broadcast by the VOA on 14 May 1988.

Washington also announced its official stance towards the iraqi use of chemical weapons in Halabjah, six months after the holocaust.

It is also worth recalling the remarks of the then U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who is on record as saying that the Iraqi regime's "illegal" use of chemical weapons coupled with other cases of human rights' abuse in Iraq, makes expansion of U.S. ties with that country impossible.

Anyway the Iraqi use of chemical weapons which was confirmed by the United Nations' experts time and again, and led to the release of official statements by the Security Council, had a widescale coverage in the world media, and Western propaganda means cannot simply disclaim the truth as per their whims and fantasies.

Now two years after the Halabjah holocaust and confirmation of the Iraqi chemical bombardment of the town,

the U.S. on being spurned by Iranian officials regarding its deceptive overture of ties, has started revealing its true colours.

The massive propaganda tirade against Iran, in view of the recent expansion of ties between the U.S. and Iraq just cannot be overlooked despite the drama enacted between Zionists and Ba'athist Iraq.

The baseless propaganda once again reveals the political goals and motivations which the U.S. tries to impose on world public opinion.

Pentagon Cited on Chemical Bombing Allegations

LD0905091590 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Washington, May 9, IRNA—A Pentagon spokesman who was asked to comment on a WASHINGTON POST report of last Friday [4 May] which suggested Iran's involvement in the bombing of the Iraqi town of Halabjah March 16, 1988, said Pentagon had never conducted a query into the incident.

Patrick Tyler, the writer of the report had said that the report was based on a query by Pentagon. The spokesman said Pentagon exercises no control on the print media in the United States and that each paper is independently responsible for what it writes.

Meanwhile leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of Iraq Jalal Talebani said earlier in the week that WASHINGTON POST's allegations in that regard were utterly false. Talebani who was talking in an interview to the B.B.C. world service earlier this week said the Iranian forces rather than dropping chemical bombs on the town had rushed help to the terrorized inhabitants of the town who were fleeing for help to the Iranian side of the border.

Halabjah is a small border town with a Kurdish population in Northern Iraq and just west of the border with Iran.

Observers say THE WASHINGTON POST report may simply have been a propaganda device to ease partly the current international pressure on the Iraqi regime for its manufacturing and possession of large stocks of chemical weapons.

Velayati, 'Aziz Said To Hold Moscow Peace Talks

TA0805174690 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] We have learned that Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has invited 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to visit Moscow to hold peace talks. The Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers have accepted this invitation and the peace talks will be held in Moscow in the presence of the Soviet foreign minister.

In this context, the BBC reported this morning that it is being said in political circles that Saddam Husayn and Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will hold a meeting to sign a peace treaty.

Velayati Interviewed on Decision in Rushdie Case

WA0905125190

For the text of an interview in Tehran with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by IZVESTIYA special correspondent V. Skosyrev on the decision in the Salman Rushdie case, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 9 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Soviet Official Speaks on Iranian, Afghan Issues

LD0805114390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Mr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister for international affairs, met with Mr. Va'ezi, the Euro-American affairs deputy of the Foreign Ministry, this morning. In the course of this meeting, important bilateral issues, regional and international issues and ways of achieving progress in the issues between the two countries were first discussed and views were exchanged. Afterwards, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, gave his government's views on Resolution 598. Expressing the Soviet Union's desire to hold tripartite Iran-Iraq peace talks, he said: We are in favor of full implementation of Resolution 598 and would like to offer the necessary cooperation to the UN secretary general on this matter; and we support the secretary general's initiative and proposals to the Security Council in order to achieve peace.

On current issues in Afghanistan, he said: The Soviet Union believes that the Afghanistan problem should be solved by political means, and the interested parties have already started talks on the coming elections; and Iran has a particular role in solving the problems of Afghanistan and establishment of peace.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, Mr. Va'ezi also explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's views on the course of the talks for implementation of the Resolution 598. He stressed the importance of the role that the Soviet Union can play in this connection.

Our country's deputy foreign minister said that the way to a solution to the Afghanistan problem lies in the region, and added: In view of the interests and votes of the Afghan mojahedin and all strata of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, political participation of Afghanistan's neighbors can bring a political solution within reach.

Also in the course of these talks, the two sides announced a positive evaluation of the expanding ties between Iran and the USSR and expressed satisfaction with the course of progress in political, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Calls for Euro-Asian Cooperation

LD0805191790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Vladimir Petrovskiy, deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs of the Soviet Union, called today for the establishment of a comprehensive security and cooperation system between Europe and Asia. He said: European and Asian countries can play an important role on the two continents.

According to an IRNA report the Soviet deputy foreign minister, who was speaking at the Political and International Studies Office of our country's foreign ministry, declared the readiness of the Soviet Union for solidarity and cooperation with all the Asian countries, saying: On that issue the Soviet Union has taken very positive steps in its relations with China and India. In addition, the soviet Union has made efforts to establish ties with its old neighbor, Iran. He referred to the visit of President of the Republic Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union as a turning point in the relations of the two countries, adding: Following the meeting between Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Gorbachev, the friendship has continued in various fields. In this respect it can be said that all the agreements in economic and political spheres are being implemented.

Referring to the fact that diplomatic relations have played a leading role in the expansion of ties between the countries, he said: The future for the two countries' ties is bright.

On the United Nation's role and activities on Afghanistan, Mr. Petrovskiy supported the stance of the secretary general saying: We support any resolution on free elections or other decisions by the United Nations. He said that the Islamic Conference Organization could have great influence on free elections in Afganistan. He said that in his view in addition to the United Nations, local associations and congresses can play an important part. Petrovskiy added: The problem of Afghanistan can be solved; it just needs goodwill on the part of active groups in that country.

Asked about the changes in the Soviet policy on the Middle East, including the migration of Jews to the occupied territories, he replied: The Soviet Jews' migrating to Israel will not change our relations with the Middle East countries.

On the forthcoming talks between the United States and the USSR he said: We believe that the said meeting will be a starting point for solving acute and important problems of the day. Among the problems to be discussed are a 50-percent reduction of the armed forces of the two sides in Europe and the implementation of the Geneva agreement on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons.

The USSR deputy foreign minister declared his strict opposition to NATO membership for a united Germany. Yet he said that the problem of Europe and the United States is a clear issue [as heard]. He said he hopes a meeting can be held between Europe and the United States next year. He said his country's position on the unity of Germany is quite clear and that at present the USSR foreign ministry is holding talks in Europe. He said: Our objective is that the people of the two Germanies must come closer together but such a development must not result in war or strife.

Mr. Petrovskiy expressed the hope that following an end to the cold war the world will be without war, which would foster the development of all countries.

Iranian, PRC Parliamentary Groups Hold Meeting

LD0805220190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Iranian members of the parliamentary friendship group of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC held a joint meeting with the Chinese parliamentary delegation to discuss issues of mutual interest.

At that meeting Wan Li, chairman of the PRC Standing Committee, expressed his delight at the establishment of friendship groups among the parliamentarians of the two countries. He said he hoped that the said groups can play a constructive role in expansion of relations between the two nations, the two governments, and the two parliaments of Iran and China.

The second deputy chairman of the PRC Congress [title as heard], who was also present at the meeting, said that the PRC has set up friendship groups with five countries in the world, including Iran.

Later, Mr. Asqarzadeh, the Iranian president of the parliamentary friendship group of the two countries emphasized the need for strengthening and expanding bilateral relations. He said that the parliamentary friendship groups are overseeing and assisting relations between the two countries, and that they could set the political and executive organizations on the road to expansion. It was agreed that in the future the parliamentary friendship groups of the two countries could set up friendship weeks to enable the two countries to learn about the each other's great culture.

Majles Approves Bill Supporting Palestine

LD0805132590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] In its open session today, the Majles began examining the draft bill in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine, which has a two-star urgency [as heard]. I draw your attention to our correspondent's report:

[Correspondent] In this morning's open Majles session, which was presided over by Mr. Karrubi, three articles of the draft bill in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine were discussed in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians and approved. In accordance with the bill's first article, the territory of Palestine did

and does belong to the Palestine people and the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem] as well as the ursurping Zionist government, which has gained control over the territory and the holy land through oppression, massacres and crimes, is a usurper, an oppressor, and it is condemned. It is incumbent on all the justice-seeking nations and people of the world, especially Muslims and in particular the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to support and defend the oppressed, homeless, and combatant people of Palestine, in any way possible, until they attain their just rights. The Majles Presidium (hey' at-e ra'iseh) is duty bound to extend and expand that support by various means and to hold a conference at the first opportunity to that end, comprised of representatives of Islamic countries and informed people.

In addition, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should establish a fund for popular support for the Palestinian people, in order to collect the donations of the world's Muslims and freedom-loving people, and to spend it in support of and in aid of Palestinian refugees and the oppressed and combatant people of the territory of Palestine.

According to the bill's third article, it is incumbent on the Martyr's Foundation of the Islamic Revolution and the Foundation for the Oppressed and Selfless Devotees of the Islamic Revolution, with the permission of the Vali-ye 'Amr of Muslims [guardian of the Muslims' cause—Khamene'i] and Iran's Red Crescent, to provide moral and material support to the extent of their capacity, for the families of marytrs, selfless devotees, POW's and MIA's of Palestine and the occupied territories and other martyrs, from other regions of the world, who are marytred by Zionism in the path of liberating Palestine.

Regime Reportedly Requesting World Bank Loan

TA0805144090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] We have learned that a meeting took place yesterday between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and members of a delegation which, upon the insistence of the Islamic Republic, arrived in Iran for talks aimed at receiving a loan from the World Bank. Hasan Hashemi was also present at this meeting.

It is worth noting that for three months now, upon the Islamic Republic's invitation, delegations from the World Bank have been visiting Iran to study the Islamic Republic's loan request. The previous delegations have stated that, in view of the chaotic economic situation and lack of coordination in the Islamic Republic's programs, it is not advisable to give a loan to this regime.

Paper Notes Anniversary of U.S. 'Invasion'

NC0405144790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Tabas Odyssey Remembered"]

[Text] April 25 marked the tenth anniversary of the failure of the United States invasion of Iran. On that day, American troops landed in the dry desert area of Tabas, midway between the north and southeast of Iran, to crush the revolutionary regime in Tehran. When it became evident that the U.S. Embassy in Tehran had become a den of spies, Iranian students following the line of Imam (Khomeyni) captured that epicenter of intrigue on November 4, 1979.

Following this event, then U.S. President Jimmy Carter assessed the different methods of retaliation and also promised his allies that force would only be used "to liberate the American hostages". In reality what was dangerous for the U.S. was the courage of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the action she had initiated in taking U.S. agents as prisoners.

As evident from the television footage of the events which followed the U.S. forces' arrival, America's action intended "to settle its score" with Iran was a disastrous failure. As America's allies ruefully put it: "How can the most powerful country in the world not be capable of landing several planes safely."

There had been numerous theories forwarded as to why the Americans foundered in Tabas. The United States up to this day maintains that the fiasco was partly due to "military miscalculation and failure to predict unforeseen possibilities." Indeed, it was. The American C-130s entered Iranian territory undetected. Everything worked well except for the sandstorm that occurred during those fateful hours.

The Tabas invasion was the result of the United States adventurist policy into which massive and careful planning went. Tabas was chosen "to take advantage of all the special characteristics of the area," location and terrain, being of major concern. What the Pentagon experts failed to take into consideration was the fact that the Tabas desert is treacherous; that clouds of dust frequently occur, and of course, the divine factor, which is Allah's protection. Paradoxically, it was that skillfully implemented strategy that carried some of the invading Americans to their tragic deaths.

The April 25, 1980 event also had important political consequences. It demoralized a superpower's once-formidable army. America, which used to pride itself on being invincible was humiliated, its "aura of might" defused. Because of the failure, Carter's decision attracted widespread criticism at home and among America's allies. The uproar in the United States was such that Carter was forced to admit that the odyssey in Tabas was a mistake and should not have been undertaken in the first place. The weakened and humiliated president then lost his bid for re-election that same year.

The most important point is that the Tabas incident proved to the Iranians that no real negotiations were feasible between America and Iran. Despite repeated protestations of peaceful intentions, the White House was totally bereft of sincerity and goodwill. Moreover,

the nation of Iran found itself even more compelled and resolved to carry on the task of leading the worldwide Islamic movement which the Western powers find to be so frightening.

The Tabas episode was a symbolic victory for the oppressed of the world. After April 1980 the fiction that America is "mighty and powerful" could no longer be sustained. Opting to fight rather than reconcile, the Iranians have weathered all manner of plots and assaults by the superpowers, nor did superpower opposition cause Iran to alter her revolutionary course.

Regime Reportedly Kills U.S. Embassy Occupiers

TA0805183090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] We have learned that 13 of the 17 persons who called themselves students of the imam's line and who, along with a number of Hezbollah hooligans, occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran have been killed by the Islamic Republic regime. Two have escaped and the regime's efforts to capture them, now that they have joined the opposition, have been to no avail. One is in Ankara, and another is to depart soon to [name indistinct].

Minister on Armed Forces' Role in Reconstruction

NC0705075390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Mr. Torkan, minister for defense and Armed Forces logistics, stressing the major role to be played by the Armed Forces in peacetime and in the reconstruction of the country, has stated: With the use of satellites and modern technology by the Geographical Department of the Armed Forces, and the immense investment made in this regard, it has become possible for the Armed Forces to offer extensive nationwide services, especially in the civilian sector.

The defense minister, who was attending the first seminar on cartography, telemetry, and geographical sciences, on the topic of "Maps in Defense and Maps in Reconstruction," spoke to our correspondent and answered his questions, which we will hear together:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Engineer Torkan, could you please tell us about the aims of the country's first cartography seminar, which has been convened by the Geographical Department of the Armed Forces, and, generally speaking, about the role of maps in your program?

[Torkan] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. According to Article 147 of the Constitution, the Armed Forces will have a role in the country's reconstruction in peacetime. At this seminar, the Geographical Department of the Armed Forces, which was formed through the merger of the geographical departments of the Ministry of Defense and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, will present its peacetime-oriented capabilities. These will include a presentation of its scientific abilities, which can be organized, mobilized, and utilized for the country's reconstruction, God willing.

Experts, professors, and scholars of geography and cartography from all over the country have been invited to undertake a joint effort to contribute to the military and civilian departments of the country so that their talents may be utilized for reconstruction.

[Correspondent] Could you please tell us whether, in the drawing up of maps on a nationwide scale, there is a need for advanced technology and what your program is for utilizing such technology?

[Torkan] The Ministry of Defense's former geographical department had prepared maps of the entire country and of the population of the country in the classical manner. These maps are already available for use by various departments. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' geographical and cartographic department has made use of satellite technology and modern techniques. Using satellites, it has been able to draw the necessary maps of the operational areas and it can utilize these maps in an appropriate manner in war for various purposes.

Today, we have these two departments together. In the Geographical Department of the Armed Forces we can move toward the latest modern technology, while of course retaining our classical knowhow, as it is going to be useful for many years to come. However, the use of satellites, and the enormous investment that has been made in the Geographical Department at present, will give our brothers the opportunity for providing extensive services for the entire country, especially in the civilian sector. We have satellite microfiches of the whole of Iran and the neighboring countries and, with the analysis and assessments we can make by means of advanced equipment, and by means of computers, we can gauge the areas of forests, deserts, their annual topographical changes, the conditions in the fields in every season of the year, as well as the geological conditions and the potentialities of every part of the soil, for purposes of studies and operations relating to minerals. Thus, we can have all these data on hand, whereas these tasks would take a long time to complete if traditional methods were employed. With the use of satellite technology, they can be accomplished very simply.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Ground Forces Commander on Combat Readiness

LD0705110190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 7 May 90

[Interview with Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified correspondent; date not given; in Fars Province—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Greetings to our martyr-nurturing nation. Dear listeners of the Armed Forces

radio program, I am here with Brig. Gen. Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A big exercise has been staged by the Ground Forces in the Darengun area, in Shiraz. I ask the general to describe the aims of the exercises.

[Hasani-Sa'di] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Our aim in staging these training progarms was to maintain the same standard of training, to enable us to give realistic training to cadets who have had less practical experience, who start their training courses in the future.

One of our training courses includes high-level specialized training. Personnel completing this course will be awarded the rank of battalion commander, or higher. It is necessary for them to receive high-level practical training. For that reason, this year's exercise complements our previous exercises and was designed to utilize all combat and combat-support units, including infantry, armored, army aviation, engineering, communications, artillery, and so on. It will last for six days and as you can see it is still in progress.

Our main aim is to train cadets, continue the training program, not forget the experience gained in eight years of war, consolidate our war experience and, if we have any weak points, to overcome them during these exercises, to be able to maintain our combat strength at a suitable level.

[Correspondent] General, this can be questioned by the martyr-nurturing nation which, following the acceptance of the Resolution 598, have no engagement in war. What do the Ground Forces do? Please briefly explain that for us.

[Sa'di-Hasani] I am certain that our nation knows that after the ceasefire the Ground Forces haev not been engaged only in the exchange of fire in the battlefields and that nothing has changed in our mission. The situation, the expansion and the readiness of the Ground Forces following the acceptance of the resolution and up to now are exactly a they were before the acceptance of the resolution, exactly like during the eight years of the holy defense, the same quality, conditions, situation, and perhaps with more preparedness. They are stationed in their operational theater now and as I mentioned, only the exchange of fire between us and the enemy does not exist. No change has taken place and the Ground Forces are following their training and raising the level of their combat preparedness more than before. Indeed they have maintained their combat preparedness at a very good level and we are trying to add to that level.

Our nation should be confident that our capabilities now are much greater than in the past and indeed we are much more prepared. The kind of preparedness which should exist in the personnel now exists at a good qualitative level. Of course, we do not wish for the flames of war to reignite. As all our dear country's officials have mentioned, we support an honorable peace. But if, God forbid, our enemy does not accept honorable peace, we are prepared, with God's assistance, to move toward achieving the aims of the Islamic Republic according to orders. And, aparat from that, part of our country is still occupied by the enemy and Iraq should evacuate those regions. If it does not evacuate, we should be confident that our nation will not let Iraq stay in our homeland and we recognize ourselves as this nation's main executive agent. We consider ourselves duty bound to make efforts toward the implementation of that mission, forcing the enemy out of the holy land of the Islamic Republic. I assure you, finally that, we will not let an inch of our territory remain in occupation by the enemy.

Central Bank's Adeli Chairs Washington Meeting

LD0805092390 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Washington, May 8, IRNA—Ministers of the Group-24 of the developing nations held their 42nd assembly at the IMF (International Monetary Fund) headquarters here under the chairmanship of Governor of Iran's Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli Monday [7 May].

Addressing participating ministers of the Group-24 at the opening session of the assembly Adeli observed that the international situation during the 1980's had worked against the economy of the developing nations and increased their foreign debts. He expressed hope that the trend would reverse during the 1990's.

Managing Director of the IMF Michel Camedessus congratulated Adeli on his being elected as chairman of the assembly and noted that the IMF would do its best to ensure its financial and technical assistance to developing nations.

President of the World Bank (WB) Barber Conable, too, expressed his congratulations to Adeli and welcomed his suggestions for improving the operation of the World Bank.

On Monday the assembly also approved the draft of an agenda for discussion by the Group-24.

The agenda, among other topics, proposes that the assembly undertake to evaluate current international economic developments, and also discuss such other topics as the debts of developing nations, increase in the IMF capital, outstanding debts of IMF member states, contribution of the private sector in economic development, and the role of the World Bank in that respect, foreign loans and its impact on the economic development of highly indebted nations, long-term prospects of economic development in the countries south of the African Sahara, and the environment.

The next assembly of the ministers of the Group-24 states is to be held in Washington next September.

Minister Speaks on Aluminum Production, Mines

NC0805080090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Mr. Malujchi, the minister of mines and metals, has expressed hopes that with the mass production of aluminum during the current [Iranian] year [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], and by overcoming the shortage in the country, aluminum prices in the market will drop further.

Mr. Mahlujchi also spoke about the ministry's plans to exploit the country's mines further. We invite you to listen to our colleague's report on this:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Our minister of mines and metals added: In order to expand the aluminum industry, the ministry intends to use the capacity of the Arak aluminum plant to the full and to make the Bandar-e 'Abbas aluminum plant, with an annual output of 220,000 tonnes, operational by 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993].

He pointed out that, during the country's first Five-Year Plan, by using the maximum capacity of the steel plants steel production will reach 5.5 million tonnes annually. He stated: Also during the period of this plan, the Meyduk copper mines will become operational and copper production will exceed 140,000 tonnes per year.

Engineer Mahlujchi asserted that decreasing the losses of the country's mines and increasing production and export of mining products calls for the immediate use of the world's most advanced tools and technologies. He stated: The Supreme Council of Mines has decided that, for a correct scientific and technical use of the country's mines, authority will be given to the mines and metals directors general in the provinces, and administrative and legal restrictions will be lifted. Thus all the cooperatives and private and government sectors can easily invest in the mining sector in order to boost mining production.

In conclusion, our minister of mines and metals referred to foreign exchange agreements on exporting mining products and said: At this juncture, with the export of 260,000 tonnes of these products, which shows a seven-fold increase over the total export of mining products in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], we hope to increase mining activities and to improve quality by using advanced systems. In addition to providing the construction material needed by the country, we hope to increase the export of mining products.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Arak. [end recording]

'Deadlock' in Afghanistan Situation Analyzed

LD0805221890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1735 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] More than a year has passed since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The ending of the nine-year occupation of that country had given rise to the hope that Afghanistan's civil war would, at last, come to an end and the Muslim people of that country after 11 years of war against communist agents and the interference of foreigners would become masters of their own fate.

However, during this period the interference of foreigners in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan has caused the crisis to continue. The crisis over sovereignty was intensified when the clash between the views and interests of domestic elements and those of foreigners further complicated the situation. The factional differences among the mujahidin, on the one hand, and the contradictions existing within the ruling regime in Kabul, on the other, has given rise to a clear impasse in the situation in Afghanistan. The fact that none of the rival groups have so far succeeded in seizing the initiative shows that, at least at the present juncture, a military solution will not be possible. The existing evidence and the developments in Afghanistan during the past year from a military point of view demonstrate that, in the view of many experts, a political solution to the crisis is more logical; even though there are many obstacles on the path to a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan.

In connection with Afghanistan's tragedy, not only the record of the regime ruling over Kabul for more than a decade should be carefully analyzed and evaluated; but the intensification of tensions among Afghan groups politically, militarily and socially, which has denied them the ability to decide their own fate and, in a word, to establish an independent government based on the wishes of the majority of Muslim people of that country, should also be carefully studied.

In the view of experts on Afghan issues, the efforts of some Afghan groups to hold one-sided elections in Afghanistan will be as unsuccessful as the efforts of Najibullah's regime in Kabul in advancing the goals of national reconciliation. Meanwhile, recent developments in Afghanistan—among which special attention should be paid to the Herat incident, as well as the latest coup d'etat against the regime in Kabul—demonstrated that the regime's policy of national reconciliation is more a matter of slogans than practical reality.

Nevertheless, the incessant efforts of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and its leadership in Kabul to play a role in the political future of Afghanistan is something which cannot be ignored. The inability of the Afghan mujahidin to form a comprehensive government which would represent all the effective struggling Afghan groups, especially after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, has convinced the superpowers that they should reach some agreements—at least on paper—about the participation of certain elements from Kabul regime and even Najibullah himself in the future political life of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's situation—which, after the military victory of the mujahidin over the occupying forces, was about to lead to the sovereignty of Islamic and national values in Afghanistan, brought about by the Muslim people of that country and by the Afghan mujahidin—is

now deadlocked. Furthermore, in view of international developments, especially the United States retreat from some of its positions regarding a number of mujahidin groups, the deadlock is going to be resolved in the interests of the United States and, especially, the interests of the Soviet Union in the region.

According to reports which are being received, the two superpowers are planning to organize elections in Afghanistan which would be held under the supervision of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference. Although the aim of this step is to bring about a nonaligned, neutral and Islamic Afghanistan, it will also guarantee the participation of the ruling PDPA. It is said that the details of this matter will be discussed during next week's meeting between James Baker and Eduard Shevardnadze—the American and Soviet foreign ministers—and will also be raised two weeks later in the upcoming summit meeting of the leaders of the two countries.

What can be said on the eve of the imminent developments in the issue of Afghanistan is that history is once again being repeated for the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Once again, on the eve of final victory the outcome of all the struggle will benefit those whose tactical and strategic interests take precedence over the right of the people to decide their own fate and achieve their freedom and independence. Afghanistan's crisis has been placed on the agenda of discussions by world powers at a time when the Muslim people of that country and the mujahidin missed the opportunity to form an independent, nonaligned and Islamic government. The traditional and tribal differences, and their intrusion into the politics of the country under present critical conditions, have led to this unwanted fate.

There is no doubt that the unity of various Afghan groups and their solidarity, which had frequently been urged upon them by the friends of the Muslim people of Afghanistan, could have confronted all the conspiracies and interference of foreign governments and powers in the affairs of that country and would have guaranteed the ability of the Muslim Afghan nation and the mujahidin determine for themselves the fate of the country and its future political course.

Commentary on Turkish 'Growth of Islamic Leanings'

NC0405132290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "A Farewell to Laicism"]

[Excerpts] The Turkish Foreign Ministry's summoning of the Iranian envoy in Ankara and, despite its indifferent facade, the Turkish press' violent accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, betray the Turkish echelons' intense apprehension. Those blindly supporting laicism are especially apprehensive.

This apprehension is linked to the growth of Islamic leanings among the masses, whether Turkish or Kurdish, and their intense hatred of 'laicism' and its founder, "Mustafa Kemal Pasha." [passage omitted]

It now appears that the day has come when international developments will not permit the Turkish echelons to coerce the Turkish people at gunpoint to say: "We are laicists!"

If, in various parts of Turkey, whether inhabited by Turks or Kurds, every house is adorned by the portrait of Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—it is not the fault of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is instead evidence of the people's religious leanings.

If among the various strata of Turkish people, from traders to workers, university professors to soldiers, and common people to farmers, Islamic leanings are become more strong each day, it is not because of a crime by a neighboring country. Instead, this is a reality emerging in Turkey.

If the Turkish authorities were to take a realistic approach, they would pay attention to the wishes of their people and bid a farewell to laicism. The correct path to tackle laicism in Turkey is not to appoint newspapers to launch tirades against Islam. Neither is it correct to prohibit the press from disseminating facts to people because publishing such facts would prove the people's intense hatred of such an "ism."

By imposing such a ban and issuing such instructions, the Turkish Government cannot claim any freedom of the press. This is a very amateurish emulation of the democracy directed by the West, the nature of which has been generally exposed very clearly.

Turkey's attempts to justify itself by blaming its problems with its people on its neighbor can never yield the desired results. The Islamic Republic of Iran wants Turkey to maintain its independence and territorial integrity and has never and will never support any action which contravenes these aspirations. The correct path would be for Turkey to come to terms with Islam and to bear in mind that no government can fight against the beliefs of the people. [passage omitted]

Repression of Islamic Trend in Egypt Viewed

NC0805070290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 May 90

["Muslims and Confrontation" feature]

[Excerpts] Al-Fayyum, which is 100 km southwest of Cairo, was the scene of bloody clashes between Egyptian Muslims and the security troops of Mubarak's regime last week. The clashes left well over 16 Egyptian mujahidin dead, including Shawqi al-Shaykh, a leader of the Muslim groups in the al-Fayyum area. The fighting in al-Fayyum was part of a series of bloody clashes and confrontations that has taken place in some Egyptian towns and areas over the past few weeks. [passage omitted]

These developments indicate that the Egyptian regime has stepped up its repressive campaign against the Egyptian Muslims into an armed confrontation. This confirms the prevailing conviction that the Egyptian regime has sensed the growing threat posed by the Islamic trend to its political future. This regime had tried in vain to torpedo the Egyptian Islamic trend and curb its influence on the Egyptian masses by adopting a series of measures and steps.

The regime appointed Zaki Badr as interior minister. He is known for his hostile stands against the Islamists and for his extreme terrorist practices. However, he failed to achieve the regime's objectives, despite the armed confrontation with the Muslims and his attacks on active Muslim elements in their homes and places of work. Badr's barbaric acts increased the Egyptian masses' wrath against the regime and helped widen the psychological gap between the masses and the regime.

In an attempt to improve the regime's image and place the blame for the tragic incidents on Zaki Badr, General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was appointed to replace Badr. Musa released some Muslims whom Badr had arrested and imprisoned. It should be recalled that Badr had thrown well over 7,000 Egyptian Muslims into prison and stepped up his acts of terrorism against mosques. The appointment of Musa gave rise to optimism that the new minister would let people express their opinions and stands. But soon the new general showed his teeth and the Egyptian regime again escalated its repressive methods. The regime distracted the attention of the Egyptian Islamic movement by inciting disputes among its groups and sowing sedition between this movement and the Copts. [passage omitted]

However, all these attempts failed to attain the regime's aims. Rather, they caused estrangement between the regime and the masses and increased the anger and wrath of the Egyptian people toward the regime. The masses are accusing the regime of ignoring Islamic principles, and say that its practices and policies threaten Egypt's Islamic identity. Actally, this regime's dependence on U.S. and Zionist schemes and plans and its humiliating allegiance to U.S. policy confirm the accusations. Egypt's economic problems are becoming increasingly complicated as a result of this policy.

Needless to say, the regime's recent escalation of confrontation with the Egyptian Muslims will only expedite the destruction of its own foundations, and will consequently shorten its life. This is because the Egyptian Islamic trend has become so influential within the various sectors of the Egyptian people and has managed to take over the secular organizations and groups used by the regime to confront the Islamic movement. Furthermore, the Islamic trend has become massive on the social and political arena. The regime's members have admitted that the Islamic groups have become more influential and active inside the Egyptian society. At any rate, Mubarak's regime cannot keep on ignoring the Egyptian Muslims' demands and determination for much longer. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Issues Warning on Islamic Dress

LD0805173990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued a statement with the objective of creating a healthy social environment and to combat symbols of corruption. According to a report of the Central News Unit, the statement, while warning the owners of boutiques, supermarkets, private companies, agencies, hair dressing and cosmetic salons, health and treatment centers, restaurants, hotels, and other private premises, has announced that men are duty bound to refrain from wearing brash and improper clothes; and women, too, are duty bound to observe full Islamic dress code and refrain from wearing gaudy and religiously undignified clothes. The Interior Ministry has also banned these places from hanging pictures, shop signs, and pornographic signs in their shop windows and work places or to use signs that belong to the groups, factions or publications which are known for their corruptive influence or whose method is contrary to the principles and values of the Islamic revolution. The managers and owners of the said premises are responsible for making certain that the contents of this statement are observed in their units. Any violations will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

The Interior Ministry, in its statement, also announced that the Islamic revolution tribunals are in charge of investigating the files of those who violate these regulations, and will deal with the offenders decisively.

Opposition Group Denounces Increase in Corruption

NC0705152190 Paris AFP in English 1342 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 7 (AFP)—An Iranian opposition movement has denounced what it says has been an increase in corruption and crime under the present Islamic leadership. The Association to Defend the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian People, which is not officially recognized, also questioned the morality of the death penalty in Iran.

"In a civilized world, can we continue to live with executions?" the group asked in its monthly publication received by AFP.

Referring to the rule of the former Shah of Iran, toppled by the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the magazine said: "During a recent period, state corruption and imperial laws were considered to be behind all the evils in society.

"But as this regime no longer exists and as Iranian leaders advocate pure Islam, why is there so much corruption and crime?"

The Association was created in 1986 by several liberal Iranian figures, notably former prime minister Mehdi Barzagan and former foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi.

Pakistan

Envoy: India Does Not Want Kashmir Confrontation

BK0705111190 Karachi DAWN in English 7 May 90 pp 1, 4

[By Ihtashmul Haq]

[Text] Islamabad, May 6—The High Commissioner of India in Pakistan, Mr. J.N. Dixit, has said India does not want confrontation over Kashmir, "but will not compromise on the issue of its unity and territorial integrity."

The Indian High Commissioner, who has just returned from New Delhi after consultation with his government, told DAWN in an exclusive interview that India-Pakistan relations in recent weeks had witnessed "the rhetoric of threats of war and conflict" and termed them unfortunate.

"India hopes very much that the situation gets defused and possibilities of war diminished. India is willing to work towards this objective," Mr Dixit said.

Responding to a question, the India High Commissioner disclosed that the concerned military authorities of India and Pakistan were in touch with each other to see that tension was not exacerbated.

When asked what diplomatic efforts were being made on behalf of his Government to defuse the current tension, the Indian High Commissioner said: "We are willing to continue contacts at both governmental and non-governmental levels to defuse this tension."

He pointed out that the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India, when they met in Delhi in January 1990, had agreed to keep all lines of communication open and to continue mutual contacts to defuse tension and confrontation between the two countries.

Mr Dixit also said that, despite public postures, diplomatic contacts between India and Pakistan were being continued. He said that both the Foreign Ministers had again met in New York and reconfirmed their desire to defuse tension through mutual contacts at all levels.

When asked if he felt the Gujral-Yaqub Khan meeting in New York would contribute to the lessening of the tension between the two countries, the Indian High Commissioner said that, despite the negative interpretation and speculative commentaries in the Press "here" about the outcome of the talks, "we feel that the talks were useful because they reflected the desire of the Governments of India and Pakistan to avoid confrontation and to keep in touch with each other, to keep the lines of communication open at high political levels."

Similarly, Mr Dixit expressed his hope that the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers would calm down tense and abrasive trends in public opinion which could negatively affect peace and stability in the region.

Their meeting, he added, would also help continue the process of controlling and reducing mutual tensions in a critical phase of India-Pakistan relations.

When asked how he planned to bridge the gap in perceptions on the crucial issue of Kashmir between New Delhi and Islamabad, Dixit pointed out that the gap in perception existed because "while India's perceptions are based on facts and political developments since partition, Pakistan's perceptions are predicated on presumptions and certain claims which India considered factually and legally inaccurate."

The issue of Kashmir, therefore, he said was complex. The difference in perceptions, though vast, could be bridged over a period of time if both sides deal with the issue with realism and patience taking the larger and long-term interests of India and Pakistan into account. "At this juncture of relations, one cannot be more specific in answering this question", the High Commissioner ascertained.

Diplomatic Efforts Intensified on Kashmir Issue

BK0805154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 may 90

[Text] The government has intensified diplomatic efforts to get maximum support from the international community for Pakistan's just stand on the Kashmir issue. This was stated by the Minister of State for Kashmir Affairs, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Khan, at a news conference in islamabad today. He said 10 delegations comprising parliament members, representing both the ruling and opposition parties, will visit Islamic countries prior to the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers' conference. Five or six more delegations will visit the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland for the same purpose. In addition, a delegation of Kashmiri leaders will visit the United States and some European countries to present their stand.

Bhutto Presides Over Foreign Office Briefings

BK0805153490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 may 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto presided over a briefing session at the Foreign Office in Islamabad today. The adviser to the prime minister on national security and foreign affairs, Mr. Iqbal Akhund, briefed the delegates of the Army Formation Commanders Conference about matters relating to national security. Interior Minister Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan briefed the session about the interior situation and the prime minister's adviser on finance, economic affairs, and planning, Mr. A. Jafarey, spoke on economic and financial policies.

Official Discloses Pre-Budget Economic Statistics

BK0805120690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The gross domestic product [GDP] in the country this year is estimated to increase by 5.2 percent, mainly due to unexpected increase of 7.8 percent in the manufacturing sector. The agriculture sector is estimated to show an increase of four percent and exports are expected to enhance 7.8 percent. The inflation rate at the end of the current fiscal year is likely to be well below eight percent. This was stated by the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. A.G.M. Kazi, while speaking at pre-budget seminar on macro-economic development in Islamabad today.

He said there has been significant increase in the private sector investment which has touched the target of 73.6 billion rupees this year as against last year's actual investment of 61.4 billion rupees. He said the heartening feature for the year is that the performance of the industrial sector this year has been very good. In the agricultural sector, the country has made rapid progress and wheat production is estimated to be 15 million tons this year. There has also been an increase of 0.8 percent in sugar production, which is 36 million tons this year. The cotton production this year is 8.6 million bales.

The deputy chairman of the planning commission said for the next year we are projecting 12.5 percent growth of GDP with 4.8 percent in agriculture sector and 7.7 percent in the manufacturing sector.

Paper Views U.S.-USSR Moves on Afghanistan

BK0805095590 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Movement on Afghanistan"]

[Text] Though nothing very dramatic has happened to break the stalemate in Afghanistan, there are growing signs of some forward movement in that quarter. At their meeting earlier this month Mr. James Baker and Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze agreed in principle on the idea of elections in Afghanistan. Not surprisingly, they were unable to make much headway on the details: who, for instance, will supervise the elections when they come to be held and what happens to the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] in the meantime? At the expert level talks which preceded their meeting, the Soviets for the first time agreed on an interim arrangement in Kabul for a period of transition. The Americans thought this meant that the Soviets were agreeing to dump Najib. They were disabused of this notion when the two Foreign Ministers met, for it became clear that what the Soviets had in mind was an election commission co-existing with the PDPA government and not an interim government stepping into its shoes. The gulf between these two standpoints remains wide.

Even so, both superpowers, with so many other things on their plates, are keen to leave Afghanistan behind them. Of that there should be little doubt. In this context, the meeting in Islamabad on Sunday [22 April] between Pakistan's President and Prime Minister and the leaders of the seven Pakistan-based resistance groups assumes added significance. A statement issued after the meeting said, "The Mujahidin leaders apprised the President and the Prime Minister of the progress in developing an election plan for the creation of a new broad-based Shoora which would have a credible and representative character. There was a consensus that the successful implementation of the election plan would make an outstanding contribution to a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem". Whether this means that the Mujahidin leaders have openly endorsed the formula for a general election in Afghanistan emerging in talks between the superpowers, remains to be seen. But that they are moving in that direction, with Pakistan's active encouragement, seems pretty obvious. This formula envisages election both in areas controlled by the Mujahidin and in those held by the PDPA—the former supervised by the Organisation of Islamic Countries and the latter by the United Nations. The winners of these elections will sit in a grand Jirga [assembly] leading to the formation of a broad-based government. At least one resistance leader, Pir Ahmed Gailani, has come out in favour of the broad outlines of this formula which does not rule out the PDPA's participation in elections or, later, in a broad-based coalition.

Important details, however, remain to be hammered out. Will the Soviets agree to ditch Najib or, conversely, will the Americans agree to adopt him during a transition period? What about the Iran-based groups between whom and the Afghan interim government there are many divergences? And, finally, have the seven Peshawar-based parties really come round to accepting an election plan which makes them rub shoulders with the PDPA? Although movement towards a political settlement in Afghanistan is evident, and it would be ostrich-like not to read the signs pointing to that, these questions have yet to be answered.

USSR To Provide Assistance for Mirani Dam

BK0505162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 May 90

[Text] In Quetta, an agreement has been signed for Soviet assistance for the construction of the multipurpose Mirani Dam across the River Dasht near Turbat in Makran Division. It envisages provision by the Soviet Union of technical and financial assistance for the project. On completion of the Mirani Dam, 40,000 acres of land will be brought to cultivation, besides power generation. The agreement was signed by the leader of the visiting Soviet delegation, Mr. (Georgiy V. Termenikov), and the chief secretary to the Baluchistan government, Mr. S.R. Punigar. It is yet to be approved by the federal government.

Experts Meet To Prepare for Iran-Pakistan Talks

BK0905014090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2227 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 8 (AFP)—Experts from Pakistan and Iran met Tuesday [8 May] to prepare the ground for a joint ministerial session on improving bilateral cooperation and trade, officials said. The two sides agreed to form five committees on financial, economic and trade matters, customs affairs, industrial, agricultural and technical cooperation, culture, scientific research, education and training matters, and communications, transport, construction and manpower matters, they said. The experts would "identify new areas of cooperation" while reviewing the existing economic relations between the two Islamic neighbors.

Iranian delegation leader Mehdi Nawab, deputy minister for international affairs and foreign economic relations, said there was great potential for improving Iranian-Pakistani relations at "an accelerated pace."

The date of the upcoming joint ministerial commission session was not specified.

Joint Pakistani-Japanese-ROK Venture Begins

OW0405115390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 4 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 4 KYODO—Work on a 100 million dollar polyester project being set up by private sector companies from Pakistan, Japan, and South Korea has started at the Hattar Industrial Estate in Abottabad, Pakistani sponsors of the project said Friday [4 May].

Dewan Salman Fibres Ltd. will produce 52,500 tons of staple fiber annually when commissioned in the first quarter of 1992, according to a report by the Dewan Group of industries.

The joint venture is between the Dewan Mushtaq Group of Pakistan, Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan, and Sam Yang Co. of South Korea.

The Korean firm will provide technical know-how and engineering to the new company and will supervise the commissioning of the project, while Mitsubishi will provide the plant and machinery, in addition to requisite finances to meet the foreign exchange component of the project.

Dewan Mushtaq Group is an industrial family conglomerate considered to be among the top 10 industrial families of Pakistan.

Pakistan Said Cultivating Sikh Shrines' Land

BK0705063290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 May 90

[Text] The authorities in Pakistan have transferred to tillers the ownership of thousands of acres of agricultural land attached to Sikh shrines in the country. This was stated by the secretary of the Sikh Gurdwaras Prabandhak [temples management] Committee [SGPC], Mr. Manjit Singh, in Amritsar today. He said this information had come to light in a report on the condition of Sikh shrines in Pakistan submitted by the SGPC officials who visited Pakistan along with the pilgrims on Baisakhi [Sikh festival] in April. Mr. Manjit Singh said unauthorized constructions have come up on the lands belonging to Panja Saheb near Rawalpindi and Chunamandi and Shahidganj in Lahore. Mr. Manjit Singh said the lands were attached to Sikh shrines over the last four to five centuries.